

APPENDIX B

Public Involvement, Agency Coordination Correspondence



**Maryland
Department of
Housing and
Community
Development**

*Division of Historical and
Cultural Programs*

100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032

410-514-7600
1-800-756-0119
Fax: 410-987-4071
Maryland Relay for the Deaf:
1-800-735-2258

<http://www.dhcd.state.md.us>

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Patricia J. Payne
Secretary

Raymond A. Skinner
Deputy Secretary

March 18, 1998

Dr. James F. Johnson
Chief, Planning Division
Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Re: Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection: Feasibility Study
and Implementation to Prevent Erosion
State Application Identifier: MD980223-0167
Somerset County, Maryland

Dear Dr. Johnson:

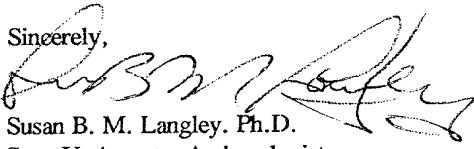
Through the Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance, we received notification of the above-referenced project for comment. We are to review the proposed project to evaluate its effects on historic properties, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Maryland's historic preservation legislation (Article 83B Section 5-618 of the Annotated Code of Maryland), since the project involves federal and state funding assistance.

Based on the information provided, we understand that the undertaking consists of the area of Smith Island from Tylerton west to Rhodes Point and a majority of the northern portion of the island, comprised of a combination of shoreline and in-water terrain. The clearinghouse review request indicates some existing, new and proposed project activities (i.e. jetties, Geotextile Tubes, revetment, and backfill).

The Corps of Engineers has yet to consult with MHT to comply with Section 106 review. Information provided by the clearinghouse request is insufficient as to project activities. We need to be provided with project activities including locations and details of design. Once we have received this information, we will be able to determine whether or not the project will effect any submerged archeological resources and make appropriate recommendations. Further consultation with our office will be necessary to fulfill compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Dr. Susan Langley at (410) 514-7662 or Mr. Stephen R. Bilicki at (410) 514-7668.

Sincerely,


Susan B. M. Langley, Ph.D.
State Underwater Archaeologist

9800637

cc: Mrs. Howard F. Yerges
Mrs. Rick Savage
Mr. Ken Baumgardt (COE)
Mr. Walid Saffouri (MDE)
Mr. Robert Rosenbush (MOP)
Ms. Elizabeth Cole
Mr. Stephen Bilicki



J. LOWELL STOLTZFUS
DISTRICT 38
SOMERSET, WICOMICO & WORCESTER

MEMBER:
ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

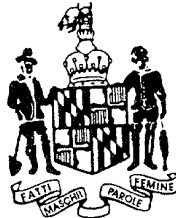
CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREAS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

GOVERNOR'S PESTICIDE COUNCIL

FORVM FOR RURAL MARYLAND

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE



SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

May 6, 1998

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE:
ROOM 409 SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991
(410) 841-3645

DISTRICT OFFICE:
30487 BROAD STREET
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853-1211
(410) 742-3999
(410) 651-3886

Evelyn M. Tyler
P. O. Box 207
Tylerton, Maryland 21866

Dear Evelyn:

Thank you for contacting us concerning the proposed funding to assist in solving your very serious erosion and flooding problem on Smith Island.

As you may know, the Federal Government and the State of Maryland have jointly requested \$14.3 million for this project (\$2.73 million from the State and \$11.57 from the Feds) and some of these dollars have been dispersed. The Fiscal Year 1999 funds will be distributed this summer in the following amounts:

\$800,000	(Federal)
\$100,000	(MD Dept. Environment)
\$292,000	(MD Dept. Natural Resources)
\$200,000	(MD State Bonds)

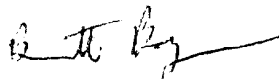
The majority of this funding will be applied to a feasibility and planning study which shall begin in several weeks. The Army Corps of Engineers is attempting to expedite the project by utilizing Section 510 authority already granted by Congress. If they are successful, actual work could begin more quickly.

Enclosed is information relative to project funding. We appreciate hearing from you on this issue and hope, as a result of this funding, we begin to see this intolerable situation solved.

Sincerely,


J. Lowell Stoltzfus, Senator


Norman H. Conway, Delegate


Bennett Bozman, Delegate


Charles McClenahan, Delegate

KA.01A
Department of Natural Resources

***Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Project
(Somerset)***

GO Bonds \$200,000 Recommendation: Approve

Bill Text: Provide a portion of the funds to conduct engineering studies and design associated with the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Project.

Project Description: The requested funds will be used to conduct studies, formulate and determine alternatives, and construct various measures to protect Smith Island and the submerged aquatic vegetation in the surrounding area from being destroyed by the continuing effects of shoreline erosion. Eight linear feet of shore on the western side of the island is lost each year. Primary funding and management of the project will come from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Fiscal 1999 funds are for preliminary planning. The construction of various types of breakwaters and jetties will be the primary means of erosion protection.

Comments: The Smith Island area contains 12% of the submerged aquatic vegetation in the Chesapeake Bay. The vegetation provides necessary habitat, feeding, and breeding areas which support the bay's fisheries. Erosion is reducing land area and exposing sensitive vegetation areas to the damaging effects of the open bay. As a result of this project, submerged aquatic vegetation in the area could be increased by 10% which would have a positive impact on the bay's fisheries and water quality. Additional State funding in fiscal 1999 includes \$100,000 in general obligation bonds from the Maryland Department of the Environment's Small Creeks and Estuary Program, as well as \$292,000 in special funds from the Department of Natural Resource's Waterway Improvement Fund. The total cost of the project will be \$14,300,000 and is divided as follows:

Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Fund	\$630,000
State Bonds	1,470,000
Maryland Department of the Environment's Small Creek and Estuary Program	630,000*
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	1,470,000
Army Corps of Engineers	10,100,000
Total:	\$14,300,000

* Includes \$200,000 that was appropriated in fiscal 1998.

For further information contact: Matthew J. Power

Phone: (410) 841-3736

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FY 1999-2003 Capital Improvement Program Grants and Loans

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Budget Code KA01

Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Preservation Project (Somerset County) FY 1999 Total \$200,000

Provide a portion of the funds for the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Preservation Project. Through the construction of breakwaters, jetties, and other means of erosion protection, 778 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation and five acres of wetlands would be created, in addition to the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas around Smith Island and the communities on Smith Island. FY 1999 funding is for preliminary planning.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Prior Auth.</u>	<u>FY 1999</u>	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2001</u>	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
GO Bonds	--	200,000	400,000	400,000	470,000	--	1,470,000
TOTAL	--	200,000	400,000	400,000	470,000	--	1,470,000
<u>Use</u>							
Planning		200,000	400,000	--	--	--	600,000
Construction		--	--	400,000	470,000	--	870,000

Note: The total cost of this project will be \$14,300,000. Federal funds from the Army Corps of Engineers are \$10,100,000 of the total. Funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are \$1,470,000. Remaining State funds are \$630,000 from the DNR Waterway Improvement Fund and \$630,000 from the Department of the Environment.

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

SUITE 709
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003
(202) 224-4654
TTY: (202) 224-5223

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

May 6, 1998

Ms. Evelyn M. Tyler
P. O. Box 207
Tylerton, Maryland 21866

Dear Ms. Tyler:

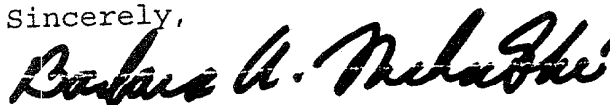
Thank you for contacting me concerning the constant flooding problems you are experiencing on Smith Island. I share your concern.

Last year, Senator Sarbanes and I secured \$3.8 million to begin erosion control measures in Ewell and Tylerton. That funding included \$2.6 million to repair the stone jetties leading into Ewell and \$1 million to help protect Tylerton.

The Corps of Engineers has just awarded a contract to fix the jetties at Ewell. This part of the project should be completed by the fall. It is now estimated that the cost to fix the erosion problems at Tylerton will be \$2 million. Therefore, Senator Sarbanes and I are requesting the additional money needed for Tylerton in the current FY 1999 Appropriations bill. This would complete the construction and continue the necessary feasibility studies to control the erosion problems.

Given the conditions you have described to me, I have asked Colonel Bruce A Berwick, District Engineer, the Corps of Engineers to see what they can do to expedite this schedule. As soon as they get back to me, I will be back in touch.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:bd

PAUL S. SARBANES
MARYLAND

309 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-4524

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

May 13, 1998

Miss Evelyn M. Tyler
P. O. Box 207
Tylerton, Maryland 21866

Dear Miss Tyler:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the continuing erosion problem at Smith Island which was compounded by this winter's severe weather.

Stemming the serious erosion problem at Smith Island is a top priority of mine and I am committed to doing all I can to address this problem. As you may recall, last year I helped secure appropriations totalling \$3.8 million to initiate measures to control erosion at Ewell and Tylerton. The funding included \$2.6 million to repair the stone jetties leading into Ewell and \$1 million to help protect Tylerton. It is my understanding that the Army Corps of Engineers expects to award a contract in May to begin the jettie repair work at Ewell and to complete this work by the fall. The current estimated cost to provide erosion protection for the town of Tylerton is approximately \$2 million.

This year I am requesting the additional funding needed to expedite and complete construction of this project as well as funding for the Corps to continue its feasibility studies of measures to control the erosion and restore historic fish and wildlife habitat in and around the Island. With the thought that it would be of interest to you, I have enclosed a copy of a press release that Senator Mikulski and I issued last October which discusses some of these factors.

Please be assured of my continuing efforts in this regard.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Paul Sarbanes
United States Senator

PSS/jes

MAY 26 1998

Planning Division

Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator, Suite 253
World Trade Center
401 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3099

Dear Senator Mikulski:

I am responding to your letter of May 4, 1998, concerning flooding and erosion in Tylerton on Smith Island. You enclosed a letter from Mr. LeRoy Friesen and Ms. Sharryl Lindberg which you stated was representative of other letters your office has received.

We completed a reconnaissance study of Smith Island in May 1997 with emphasis on providing improvements in the interest of navigation, flood control, erosion control, environmental restoration, and wetlands protection. Our study team met with residents of each of the three towns on Smith Island in the problem identification and plan formulation aspects of the study. The residents' major concerns at Tylerton involve flooding and erosion of the shoreline, which imperils roads, sanitary sewers, the sanitary pumping station, docks, crab shanties, and homes. The report recommended further investigation of a solution that could potentially include a stone revetment along the western shoreline of the town and breakwaters to the south. Although no solution that we can recommend will eliminate flooding in a low-lying island such as Smith Island, this project should act to reduce nuisance flooding, and the severity of wave induced damage.

Since the completion of the reconnaissance study, we have been negotiating with non-Federal sponsors to partner in a feasibility study of the island. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and Somerset County have agreed to sponsor our study. We expect the study to commence in June 1998, and to include an investigation of solutions to the Tylerton problem. A project at Tylerton is also being considered using the authority of Section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. Section 510, the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, allows for design-and-build assistance to states for projects that aid in the living resources (including cultural resources) of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. I will keep you informed of our progress toward aiding in solutions for Smith Island.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please call me or have a member of your staff contact my action officer, Dr. James F. Johnson, Chief, Planning Division, at (410) 962-4900.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Berwick, P.E.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Copy furnished Washington DC office

CECW-PE, CECW-RL, CENAD-ET-P, CENAD-EX, CENAB-EX, CENAB-PA, CECW-ZE
PD Branch Reading File, Congressional Reading File

3 s/la
BIERLY/rla/26139/CENAB-PL-PR

8/19-193
UNDERWOOD/CENAB-PL-PR

120-0910
LADD/CENAB-PL-P

in
JOHNSON/CENAB-PL

OK
WALKER/CENAB-EX *05-26-98*

OK
LEKETA/CENAB-DD-C *4/3*

OK
BERWICK/CENAB-DE *5/12*

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BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

May 4, 1998


Colonel Bruce A. Berwick
District Engineer
Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21223

Dear Colonel Berwick:

I have received communication from several of the residents of Smith Island concerning the flooding. I am enclosing a copy of one of the letters, which outlines the current problems.

I am requesting that every effort and resource be utilized to expedite the restoration of Smith Island. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:ebd

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER
TO OFFICE INDICATED:

☒ WORLD TRADE CENTER, SUITE 253
401 E. PRATT STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21202-3099
(410) 962-4510
VOICE/TDD: (410) 962-4512

☐ 60 WEST STREET, SUITE 202
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-2448
(410) 263-1805
BALTIMORE: (410) 269-1650

☐ 9658 BALTIMORE AVENUE, SUITE 207
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-1346
(301) 345-5517

☐ 82 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 301
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740-4804
(301) 797-2826

☐ SUITE 1E, BUILDING B
1201 PEMBERTON DRIVE
SALISBURY, MD 21801-2403
(410) 546-7711

April 14, 1998

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski
SH-709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2003

Dear Senator Mikulski:

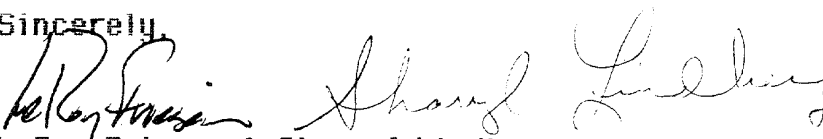
We are permanent residents of Tylerton on Smith Island, Maryland; as a married couple, we are also the co-owner/operators of a business here, the bed and breakfast *The Inn of Silent Music*. We are writing to make an urgent appeal for your assistance with the deteriorating shore situation here in Tylerton.

Enclosed you will find photographs making clear the flooding we here are increasingly suffering in recent years. Under the water in the foreground of all three photographs is the road on which our customers at the inn must walk between the ferry and our establishment. During the nor'easters this winter knee boots were on several occasions insufficient to traverse that road; sometimes watermen have had to offer their skiffs to get guests to their destination.

Senator, what you see on these photographs is not an infrequent phenomenon! Please do everything you can to expedite efforts to reduce such flooding and the shore erosion which is happening before our eyes. And, please, help must come soon, or it won't matter.

Thank you again for your past efforts on behalf of Smith Island. And the best to you in your important responsibilities.

Sincerely,


LeRoy Friesen & Sharryl Lindberg
Inn of Silent Music
2955 Tylerton Rd.
Tylerton, MD 21866
(410-425-3541)

Enclosures: photographs & brochure

MAY 27 1998

Planning Division

Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-2003

Dear Senator Mikulski:

I would like to thank you for your participation in the Poplar Island ceremony on Monday, May 18, 1998, and for your complimentary remarks about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of this letter is to respond to the inquiry you made of me at the ceremony in reference to Smith Island, Maryland. You asked if we could accelerate implementation of potential solutions to the erosion and flooding problems being experienced by the residents of the island.

The Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a reconnaissance study of Smith Island in May 1997. The study identified problems and potential solutions with respect to navigation, flood control, erosion control, environmental restoration, and wetlands protection. Our study team met with residents of each of the three towns on Smith Island during the problem identification and plan formulation phases of the study. The residents' major concerns involve erosion of the shoreline, which imperils roads, sanitary sewers, the sanitary pumping stations, docks, crab shanties, and homes. Tidal flooding was also identified as a major concern in Tylerton. The report recommended further investigation of solutions that could potentially protect the residents of Smith Island and benefit and/or restore fish and wildlife habitat. These investigations will be made during a cost-shared feasibility study, which will start in June 1998 and be completed in 30 months. The study sponsors are the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Somerset County.

In addition to recommending potential projects, the reconnaissance study also presented alternatives for accelerated implementation of the projects. Section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, allows for design-and-build assistance to states for projects that aid in the living resources (including cultural resources) of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We are currently receiving input from Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania to determine the initial scope of the program. A project to halt erosion and reduce the frequency of flooding in Tylerton will most likely be recommended for early implementation under Section 510. A project to aid in navigation and reduce erosion at Rhodes Point may be pursued under Section 107 of the River and Harbors Act of 1960, part of our Continuing Authorities Program, which allows for faster implementation of small scale projects. We will continue to pursue other expedited implementation procedures whenever possible. At the six-month point of the feasibility study, the study steering committee will meet to determine which, if any, study components can be spun off into authorities that allow for faster implementation.

-2-

If you have any further questions on this matter, please call me or have a member of your staff contact my action officer, Dr. James F. Johnson, Chief, Planning Division, at (410) 962-4900.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Berwick, P.E.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Copy furnished home office:

United States Senator
Suite 253, World Trade Center
401 E. Pratt St.
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

CECW-PE, CECW-RL, CENAD-ET-P, CENAD-EX, CENAB-EX, CENAB-PA, CECW-ZE
PD Branch Reading File, Congressional Reading File

25-2-81/20
BIERLY/26139/CENAB-PL-PR
UNDERWOOD/CENAB-PL-PR
LADD/CENAB-PL-P
WOLFE/CENAB-PP-C
JOHNSON/CENAB-PL
WALKER/CENAB-EX
HAND/CENAB-DD-C
BERWICK/CENAB-DE
5-225
5/2/88

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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2500 Broening Highway • Baltimore Maryland 21224
(410) 631- 3000 • 1- 800 -633-6101 • [http:// www. mde. state. md. us](http://www.mde.state.md.us)

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

MAY 29 1998

Jane T. Nishida
Secretary

Ms. Evelyn M. Tyler
P.O. Box 207
Tylerton MD 21866-0662

Dear Ms. Tyler:

The Governor has asked me to respond to your recent letter regarding flooding and erosion problems in the Tylerton community of Smith Island. The serious and possibly dangerous nature of this apparently worsening situation has received a significant amount of attention from federal, State and local agencies.

Maryland officials have been working with the Maryland Congressional delegation in an effort to secure federal funding under the auspices of the Army Corps of Engineers, to be used for projects in the Chesapeake Bay area. Maryland is currently submitting an application for the use of these funds to address tidal flooding and shoreline erosion in the Tylerton area.

If approved for funding, the Tylerton project will be managed by the Corps of Engineers, with the technical support of the Maryland Departments of the Environment (MDE) and Natural Resources DNR. The State will also participate in the costs of this project. MDE and DNR will work to expedite the approval and implementation of this project.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Ms. Virginia Kearney, of my staff, at (410) 631-3574, or Mr. Robert Gaudette, in the Department of Natural Resources, at (410) 260-8899.

Sincerely,

J.L. Hearn, Director
Water Management Administration

JLH/dp

cc: The Honorable Paul T. Sarbanes
The Honorable Barbara S. Mikulski
Jane T. Nishida, Secretary, MD. Department of the Environment
Donna Jacobs, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
John Griffin, Secretary, MD. Department of Natural Resources
David McMillion, Director, MD Emergency Management Agency

WAYNE T. GILCHREST

1st District, Maryland

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIRMAN, COAST GUARD AND
MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

WATER RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

FISHERIES CONSERVATION,
WILDLIFE AND OCEANS

NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

- ☐ 332 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-5311
FAX: (202) 225-0254
- ☐ 44 CALVERT ST., SUITE 320
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
PHONE: (410) 263-6321
FAX: (410) 263-7619
- ☐ 315 HIGH STREET, SUITE 105
CHESTERTOWN, MD 21620
PHONE: (410) 778-9407
FAX: (410) 778-9560
- ☐ ONE PLAZA EAST
SALISBURY, MD 21801
PHONE: (410) 749-3184
FAX: (410) 749-8458

June 4, 1998

Ms. Evelyn Tyler
PO Box 207
Tylerton, Maryland 21866

Dear Ms. Tyler:

Thank you for writing with your concerns about preservation and restoration of Smith Island. I believe that this project is critical to protect lives and homes and to preserve a resource with significant cultural, historical, and environmental value.


To this end, I have worked hard to support the State and the Army Corps of Engineers in their efforts to protect Smith Island. As you may know, in the 1996 Water Resources Development Act which provides funds for the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Energy, and miscellaneous other projects around the nation, included money for emergency measures to protect Rhodes Point as well as authorization for the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program which may be used for emergency erosion control measures at Tylerton. In addition, a study to develop a plan for the restoration of the island was authorized in 1994.

However, authorization is but half the battle. We must work every year to ensure that sufficient funds are appropriated for the Corps to do this important work. In the current fiscal year, 1998, funds are available and the Corps is proceeding. Unfortunately, in its budget request for the next fiscal year, the Clinton Administration proposed to cut funding for these critical projects by 47%. The Administration requested a scant \$300,000 for the study, and no funding at all for emergency measures at Tylerton and Rhodes Point. I feel that this is unconscionable given what is at stake.

While I am fiscally conservative, I feel strongly that preservation of a resource such as Smith Island is an investment in our future. The eroding shorelines of the island endanger the populated areas, cause shoaling in the navigation channels, decrease protection from wave energy, and cause sedimentation that smothers submerged aquatic vegetation. In addition, I feel strongly that we must explore every opportunity to beneficially use dredge spoil.

For all these reasons, I will fight to ensure that restoration efforts on Smith Island are fully funded until the job is done and done as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,


Wayne T. Gilchrest
Member of Congress





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715
August 20, 1998

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Programs and Project
Management Division

Honorable Paris N. Glendening
Governor of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Glendening:

I am writing to advise you that in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Somerset County, this office has initiated the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study. This study will investigate projects designed to :

- (1) Provide erosion protection and navigation improvements at the mouth of Sheep Pen Gut near Rhodes Point,
- (2) Close breaches along the western shoreline of the Martin Wildlife Refuge near Ewell, and
- (3) Recreate coves along the northern and eastern shorelines of the Martin Wildlife Refuge.

These projects will create wetlands and restore as much as 850 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation. It is anticipated that the projects will also protect infrastructure, prevent channel shoaling, and reduce storm damages.

The Smith Island study was initiated in June 1998. Technical investigations, plan formulation, and project design will continue for the next two years. A final study report will be available in May 2001.

In a related matter, we propose to address erosion along the Tylerton waterfront through Section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The Congress appropriated \$939,000 in Fiscal Year 1998 to implement this authority.

I will continue to keep you apprised of the progress being made on the Smith Island study. If at any time you should have questions or concerns about the study, please call me or Mr. Robert Lindner, Acting Deputy District Engineer for Project Management at (410) 962-7960, or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Joseph Wolfe, my project manager, at (410) 962-6750.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Berwick, P.E.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

August 20, 1998

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Programs and Project
Management Division

Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2002

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I will continue to keep you apprised of the progress being made on the Smith Island study. If at any time you should have questions or concerns about the study, please call me or Mr. Robert Lindner, Acting Deputy District Engineer for Project Management at (410) 962-7960, or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Joseph Wolfe, my project manager, at (410) 962-6750.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Berwick, P.E.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

August 20, 1998

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Programs and Project
Management Division

Honorable Wayne T. Gilchrest
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2001

Dear Congressman Gilchrest:

I am writing to advise you that in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Somerset County, this office has initiated the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study. This study will investigate projects designed to

- (1) Provide erosion protection and navigation improvements at the mouth of Sheep Pen Gut near Rhodes Point,
- (2) Close breaches along the western shoreline of the Martin Wildlife Refuge near Ewell, and
- (3) Recreate coves along the northern and eastern shorelines of the Martin Wildlife Refuge.

These projects will create wetlands and restore as much as 850 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation. It is anticipated that the projects will also protect infrastructure, prevent channel shoaling, and reduce storm damages.

The Smith Island study was initiated in June 1998. Technical investigations, plan formulation, and project design will continue for the next two years. A final study report will be available in May 2001.

In a related matter, we propose to address erosion along the Tylerton waterfront through Section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The Congress appropriated \$939,000 in Fiscal Year 1998 to implement this authority.

I will continue to keep you apprised of the progress being made on the Smith Island study. If at any time you should have questions or concerns about the study, please call me or Mr. Robert Lindner, Acting Deputy District Engineer for Project Management at (410) 962-7960, or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Joseph Wolfe, my project manager, at (410) 962-6750.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Berwick, P.E.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715
August 20, 1998

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Programs and Project
Management Division

Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2003

Dear Senator Mikulski:

I am writing to advise you that in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Somerset County, this office has initiated the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study. This study will investigate projects designed to

- (1) Provide erosion protection and navigation improvements at the mouth of Sheep Pen Gut near Rhodes Point,
- (2) Close breaches along the western shoreline of the Martin Wildlife Refuge near Ewell, and
- (3) Recreate coves along the northern and eastern shorelines of the Martin Wildlife Refuge.

These projects will create wetlands and restore as much as 850 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation. It is anticipated that the projects will also protect infrastructure, prevent channel shoaling, and reduce storm damages.

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In a related matter, we propose to address erosion along the Tylerton waterfront through Section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The Congress appropriated \$939,000 in Fiscal Year 1998 to implement this authority.

I will continue to keep you apprised of the progress being made on the Smith Island study. If at any time you should have questions or concerns about the study, please call me or Mr. Robert Lindner, Acting Deputy District Engineer for Project Management at (410) 962-7960, or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Joseph Wolfe, my project manager, at (410) 962-6750.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce A. Berwick", is written over a horizontal line.

Bruce A. Berwick, P.E.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection, Maryland

Team Meeting

9 September 1998

Attendees:

Carol Anderson-Austra	Planning	Larry Mathena	Civil Design
Greg Bass	H&H	Dave Capka	Geotech
Carolyn Brumfield	Design Mgt	John Roop	Operations - Reg
Monte Franklin	Operations	Dan Bierly	Planning Mgt
Adam Oestreich	Real Estate	Joe Wolfe	PPMD
Mark Mendelsohn	Enviro.	Denny Klosterman	Economics

1. The meeting commenced at 0900 hrs in room 8510. This meeting was the first full team meeting for the feasibility study. The study commenced in June 1998. The purpose of the meeting was to update the team on progress to date and to scope the near-term direction of the study. See attached agenda.
2. After opening remarks, Dan briefly explained the recommendations of the reconnaissance study. He explained how two of the recommendations – Tylerton and Rhodes Point – may be broken off into smaller studies. Tylerton would be handled under Section 510 and Rhodes Point under Section 107. He also explained the role of Dr. Koch at Horn Point Labs. The contract with Dr. Koch will be let next FY. Dan also discussed the “six-month” meeting with higher authority, which will likely be held in January 1999 due to the holidays. The team understands that it needs to make certain determinations in time for this meeting. These include background information and economics work that will determine if the studies are viable under the separate authorities. The team is scheduled to begin alternatives in the December to January timeframe. Concept design work will follow in February.
3. As for time and money, Joe handed out a schedule and a printout showing funding. In order to have satisfactory expenditure ratios, the drilling will need to commence, the survey charges will have to hit, and Planning money will need to be spent. As Joe reviewed the schedule, the team discussed the status and near-term future of the technical efforts. Engineering will work on getting the H&H model up to speed. It is likely that the model can be completed in time for the six-month meeting. The model will be used to evaluate alternatives as well as to determine existing wave conditions. An additional one-dimensional model will be used at Sheep Pen Gut to determine current speeds in the area. Drilling will commence this month, and the survey work is wrapping up. Planning will be sending out study initiation letters next week along with a CD containing the recon report to interested agencies. The rest of the study

list, which includes other agencies, groups and individuals, will receive a public notice.

4. Joe asked if the team was interested in holding monthly meetings. The first Monday of each month at 9am was suggested. There didn't seem to be any disagreement about this time. Dan asked that Joe send out reminders as each meeting draws near. Approximately every other month, the Sponsors will be invited to join the meeting. Future discussions will be held to determine if and when locals should participate in team meetings. The draft report is currently scheduled to be completed in May 2000. This may change based on which parts of the study are "spun off."
5. The biggest issue on the horizon seems to be the need for and the search for material borrow sites. It is thought that the primary search should be conducted in Maryland, due to required agency buy-off in any effort of this type. John said that any site would need to be in deep water, at least 3 to 6 feet, due to shallow water habitat and SAV concerns. In order to locate borrow sites, the team will use overhead photos, surveys, oyster bar maps, local interviews and agency input. We may need to contract with a hydrographic surveyor to perform a subbottom profile. Carolyn was asked to head up this effort. Another major issue that is becoming more important as geotextile bags are becoming more common is O&M/life cycle cost analyses. This is an issue that will need to be addressed in some way. It is likely that we will need higher authority guidance to determine a solution.
6. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11 am.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

October 1
~~September 29~~, 1998

Planning Division

Mr. John P. Wolfin
Supervisor
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Wolfin:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, initiated the Smith Island, Maryland, Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study in June 1998, and to request your assistance in the study. The study follows a positive reconnaissance study that was completed in May 1997. The reconnaissance study was authorized by a resolution of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Public Works and Transportation, dated September 28, 1994.

Corps of Engineers studies are conducted in two study phases: reconnaissance and feasibility.

Reconnaissance Study Phase. The reconnaissance phase is 100 percent Federally funded and its purposes are to: (1) determine whether the water resource problems fall within the authorities of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; (2) determine if there is a Federal interest based on a preliminary appraisal of the alternatives; (3) prepare a project study plan which defines the scope, cost, and schedule for a feasibility study; and (4) assess the level of interest and support from the potential non-Federal sponsor(s) in the potential solutions and cost-sharing of the feasibility study phase and construction.

The reconnaissance report listed several potential projects on Smith Island that would protect wetlands and restore submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat, as well as aid in navigation and reduce erosion and flooding in inhabited areas. Enclosed is a compact disk for your information that contains the reconnaissance report and the appropriate software to read it. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and Somerset County have agreed to be project sponsors for the feasibility effort.

Feasibility Study Phase. The feasibility phase is a detailed investigation to: (1) collect data on the water resources problems; (2) develop alternatives to solve the problems; (3) evaluate the effectiveness of the alternatives; (4) compare alternatives; and (5) select the alternative or set of alternatives that is in the best overall public interest. If a project(s) is determined to be technically, economically, and environmentally feasible, the Corps of Engineers will submit its recommendation to Congress for project construction authorization. The cost of this feasibility study is being shared equally by the Corps of Engineers and the non-Federal sponsors.

Our feasibility study will focus on the water resource problems on ~~the~~ Smith Island that were identified in the reconnaissance report as well as analyzing the island for additional project opportunities.

Please assist us by identifying specific flooding problems, navigation problems, shoreline erosion, loss of fish or wildlife habitat, degraded water quality, or other water resource concerns in this study area and by identifying agencies, groups, and citizens who can help guide the study. Please be as specific as possible in identifying the ~~specific~~ water resource problems, or other concerns, including such information as location, description of the ~~specific~~ problems/damages, and potential solutions, if known.

If you plan to participate in this study, we request that you provide this information and a point of contact for your agency by October 30, 1998. Using your input, we will establish a list of key agencies, groups, and citizens to be included in the study process. Attached is a copy of the current mailing list for this study. If there are other agencies you think should be part of this study, please include them and their addresses with your response to us.

I believe we have an excellent opportunity to restore and protect habitat and address the water resources problems on Smith Island, Maryland, through a strong local, state and Federal partnership. I look forward to working with you on the feasibility study. If you have any questions or need further information, please have your staff contact Mr. Daniel Bierly, the study team leader, at (410) 962-6139.

Sincerely,



Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

<p>Mr. John P. Wolflin Supervisor Chesapeake Bay Field Office U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 177 Admiral Citroen Drive Annapolis, Maryland 21401</p>	<p>Mr. Glenn Carowan Refuge Manager Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge P.O. Box 1221 Route 1 Cambridge, Maryland 21613-9536</p>
<p>Mr. Gregory H. Williams District Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation SVC U.S. Department of Agriculture 30730 Park Drive Princess Anne, Maryland 21853-1014</p>	<p>Mr. Timothy E. Goodger Assistant Coordinator National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA Habitat & Protected Resources Division 904 South Morris Street Oxford, Maryland 21654-0279</p>
<p>Mr. Ronald E. Lambertson Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, Massachusetts 01035-9589</p>	<p>Mr. James M. Gerhart District Chief U.S. Geological Survey 8987 Yellow Brick Road Rosedale, Maryland 21237</p>
<p>Ms. Marie Rust Field Director National Park Service Northeast Field Area 200 Chestnut Street, 5th Fl Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106</p>	<p>Mr. W. Michael McCabe Regional Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029</p>
<p>Mr. Roy E. Denmark, Jr. Environmental Programs Branch U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029</p>	<p>Dr. Henry A. Virtis Secretary Maryland Department of Agriculture The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401</p>
<p>Honorable Jane T. Nishida Secretary Maryland Department of the Environment 2500 Broening Highway Baltimore, Maryland 21224-6612</p>	<p>Honorable John R. Griffin Secretary Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tawes State Office Building 580 Taylor Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2397</p>
<p>Mr. Rodney J. Little State Historic Preservation Officer Historical and Cultural Programs Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development 100 Community Place 3rd Fl Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023</p>	<p>Mr. Ray C. Dintaman Director Environmental Review Unit Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tawes State Office Building, B-3 Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2397</p>
<p>Mr. William C. Baker President Chesapeake Bay Foundation</p>	<p>Honorable Phillip L. Gerald President Commissioners for Somerset County</p>

162 Prince George Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401	P.O. Box 37 30513 Prince William Street Princess Anne, Maryland 21853-0008
Ms. Susan McConville Planner Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission 45 Calvert Street, 2 nd Fl Annapolis, Maryland 21401	Dr. Thomas Hoff Executive Director Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Federal Building, Rm #2115 300 South New Street Dover, Delaware 19901-6790
Mr. Melvin Cusick Director Roads Board P.O. Box 219 8981 Sign Post Road Westover, Maryland 21871	Mr. Larry G. Ward Environmental & Estuarine Studies University of Maryland P.O. Box 775 Cambridge, Maryland 21613-0775
Mr. William J. Goldsborough Senior Staff Scientist Chesapeake Bay Foundation 162 Prince George Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401	Mr. Larry Simms President Maryland Waterman's Association 1805 A Virginia Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection, Maryland

Team Meeting

13 October 1998

Attendees:

Carol Anderson-Austra	Planning	Cornelia Pasche	MdDNR
Carolyn Brumfield	Design Mgt	Walid Saffouri	MDE
Dave Capka	Geotech	Susan McConville	CBCAC
Larry Mathena	Civil Design	Jordan Loran	MdDNR
Greg Bass	H&H	Kevin Smith	MdDNR
Joe Wolfe	PPMD	Oktay Ertugrul	MDE
Tom Waddington	Operations		
Oliver Leimbach	Cost Engineering		
Denny Klosterman	Economics		
John Roop	Operations - Reg		
Dan Bierly	Planning Mgt		

1. The meeting commenced at 1300 hrs in room 11700. This meeting was the first team meeting including representatives of the Sponsors. The study commenced in June 1998. The purpose of the meeting was to review with the entire team the investigations completed to date, and to solicit input as to the direction of the study and the types of projects that are to be considered. See attached agenda.
2. After opening remarks, and introductions by the attendees, Dan Bierly briefly explained the recommendations of the reconnaissance study. The recommendations include protection for Tylerton with potential wetlands restoration to the south of town, navigation improvements for Rhodes Point, and SAV protection and restoration projects in the Martin Wildlife Refuge and in Big Thorofare. Next, Carolyn Brumfield briefly summarized the efforts to date to collect our baseline information. Efforts to date include surveys and mapping, geotechnical drilling, and H&H model set up.
3. Tom Waddington, representing Operations Division, explained that there were already good surveys existing for the navigation channels and Sheep Pen Gut. In fact, the historical surveys will help us to determine shoaling and shoreline erosion rates. The surveys conducted for this study include the areas identified during the reconnaissance effort. Mr. Waddington gave a status of the investigation, and said that only "in-filling" information is needed. The mapping is in a rough form right now. When completed, the mapping will have appropriate scales, contour lines, etc. Larry Mathena then discussed how Engineering Division will use the mapping information to help make decisions during plan formulation. He pointed out a few bits of information that have come to light already. These include the shallow depths south of Tylerton

that will allow for great flexibility in the placement of structures, the deep water in the cove areas along the Martin Wildlife Refuge, and the close proximity of deep water to Sheep Pen Gut if the channel were to be realigned. Dave Capka reported that the phase 1 drilling will be completed by next week, and that analyses will be completed in about a month. Mr. Bierly explained the rationale behind conducting the drilling in two phases in order to save money, and be more intelligent about placing the drill holes. Greg Bass discussed the wave model that will be used to determine existing conditions and to model improved conditions. There will also be a one-dimensional model in the Sheep Pen Gut area. Jordan Loran of DNR asked if the survey and mapping information could be made available to the sponsors. Messrs. Mathena and Waddington will work with Mr. Loran to assure that this happens.

4. Kevin Smith of DNR asked whether erosion rates will be calculated during the course of the study. There is existing information on this that will be used. The Chesapeake Bay Erosion study of 1990 will help, as will the Maryland Geological Survey. Later in the study if we have specific concerns, we could send surveyors out again to compare to the initial surveys that were conducted over the past months. Mr. Bierly then discussed Planning's study efforts to date. These efforts include study initiation correspondence and coordination, the July public meeting, the upcoming public notices and newsletter, and coordination with Dr. Evamaria Koch of Horn Point Labs. It is anticipated that Dr. Koch will be on board within the next month to aid in the study objectives, and add SAV expertise.
5. Mr. Bierly then briefly explained the plan formulation process. Now that the major technical conditions investigations have been completed, or are nearing completion, the team can utilize the information to determine what type of projects would be appropriate for each study area. The objective and constraints of each will be established and alternatives will be devised to remedy the problems or maximize the improvements. It is likely that these efforts will begin soon, and it is important that the sponsors be very involved in this process.
6. Several issues have arisen since the beginning of the study. First, two of the recommended plans from the reconnaissance study – Tylerton and Rhodes Point – may be broken off into smaller studies. Tylerton would be handled under Section 510 and Rhodes Point under Section 107. Section 510 has also been discussed in reference to the sanitary sewerage problem in Tylerton. It is possible that the two problems will be combined into a Section 510 project. In addition, Section 538 of WRDA 96 may be funded. This language allows for a project in the interest of erosion control at Rhodes Point. The total funding level is not sufficient for construction of a jetty. Any plans for utilization of Section 538 will hold off until such time as the funds are available, if they are made available. The islanders have been contacted by a Mr. Harvilla who has offered materials to construct bulkheads on the island. This issue is not within the scope of the study; however the islanders have contacted team members for guidance and advice. A construction project may impact on the study recommendations. It was suggested during the meeting that perhaps the eastern shoreline of Ewell would be a

good place for a bulkhead, since the area is not being studied by the Corps. It was also suggested that coordination by the islanders with Somerset County should occur regarding Mr. Harvilla's offer

7. The biggest concern of the team at this time is the lack of suitable material for wetlands construction. It is likely that material will need to be borrowed from offshore sites. The Sponsors were requested to check their contacts to help identify possible sources. Carolyn Brumfield has been asked to lead this critical effort. Another concern is with the useful life of geotextile tubes, and the long-term maintenance of the structures. This will need to be considered for any project that recommends the use of the tubes.
8. Mr. Bierly listed the upcoming milestones including the P-6 study initiation meeting with higher authority, the six-month meeting with higher authority and the Sponsors, the next team meeting, the alternative formulation briefing (AFB), and the draft feasibility report. A memo has been written requesting that the P-6 meeting be waived due to the amount of pre-study coordination that has occurred between the District and headquarters. The six-month meeting with higher authority, which will likely be held in January or February 1999 due to the holidays, will include discussion of the plans being considered at that time along with the prospects of spin-off projects as discussed previously. This meeting will allow all the decision makers to reach agreement at the same time and authorize the future direction of the study. The team understands that it needs to make certain determinations in time for this meeting. These include background information and economics work that will determine if the studies are viable under the separate authorities. The team is scheduled to begin concept alternatives analysis in the December to January timeframe. The AFB will be held before the report is written to make sure that any last-minute changes can be made in the recommendations or analyses. The draft feasibility study is scheduled for completion in November 2000. This date could change based on the six-month meeting
9. Mr. Wolfe handed out the current study schedule and a printout showing funding. Mr. Loran mentioned that the USFWS funding is not currently available and it does not appear that it will become available. Mr. Wolfe will determine how this will affect the study budget and make a recommendation to the team. This will need to be addressed further when the funding situation is more clear. The next team meeting was tentatively scheduled for the first Monday in December.
10. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1520 hrs.



Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

John R. Griffin
Secretary

Carolyn D. Davis
Deputy Secretary

October 15, 1998

Mr. Harold L. Nelson
Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Harold

Thank you for your recent letter to Secretary Griffin announcing the initiation of the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study (Study). We look forward to working with the other Study partners, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps), Somerset County, and the Maryland Department of the Environment, on this important project. For your information, the Department of Natural Resource's team managers will be Ms. Kathleen Ellett, Chesapeake & Coastal Watershed Service, (410) 260-8740 and Mr. Jordan Loran, Engineering & Construction, (410) 260-8907. All coordination for the Study should be made through them.

We agree this is a great opportunity to assist the residents of Smith Island and Somerset County in addressing the resource problems of the island. It is my understanding that Ms. Ellett and Mr. Loran met with the Corps' Study Team manager, Mr. Dan Bierly, on October 13, 1998 to begin the team meetings.

Once again, we would like to thank the Corps for undertaking the Feasibility Study, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jim

James W. Dunmyer
Assistant Secretary

cc: John R. Griffin, Secretary
Mike Nelson
Robert Gaudette
David Burke
Kathleen Ellett
Jordan Loran

Post-It® Fax Note 7671

Date	10-20-98	# of pages	1
To	Don Bierley	From	Kathy Ellett
Co./Dept.	ACOE-Planning	Co.	DNR-CZMD
Phone #	410-962-6139	Phone #	410-260-8730
Fax #	410-962-4698	Fax #	410-260-8739

From: Susan McConville
To: DNR.TAWES-PO1(RDintaman,
Date: 10/20/98 12:31pm
Subject: Smith Island - Environmental Restoration & Protection
Recon. Report -Reply

I reviewed the Reconnaissance Study/ Report and the proposed second phase, or feasibility study. I also attended the first study team meeting for the feasibility study. The objectives of the project; to protect SAV beds, wetland areas, and other habitat areas as well as to control erosion on the island and re-establish shoreline landmass (wetlands and uplands), are generally consistent with the Somerset County Critical Area program and state criteria. One issue that may be of concern for the Critical Area Commission is the proposed placement of fill or dredged material in the Buffer on the island. Shore erosion control is encouraged in the Critical Area. However, proposed locations for placement of dredged material or fill should be reviewed by the Commission staff.

Please call me at (410)260-7019 if you have any questions concerning these comments. Thank you.



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2500 Broening Highway • Baltimore Maryland 21224
(410) 631-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • <http://www.mde.state.md.us>

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

OCT 19 1998

Jane T. Nishida
Secretary

Colonel Bruce A. Berwick, P.E.
Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Re: Smith Island Feasibility Study

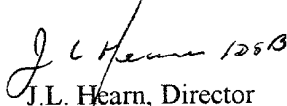
Dear Colonel Berwick:

Governor Glendening has asked me to respond to your recent letter announcing the commencement of the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study. As your letter states, this study is being undertaken jointly by the State and your agency. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is hopeful that the study will yield project designs that will alleviate some of the erosion problems that threaten the island.

MDE is also happy to be a part of the accelerated efforts to begin addressing the problems on Tylerton. MDE has requested the inclusion, under the Section 510 authority, of an evaluation of the impacts of erosion and high tides on the wastewater treatment systems. This aspect of public health and environmental protection must be addressed and remedied if the island is to remain safe for human habitation and water pollution problems from the sewerage systems are to be avoided. My staff is available to assist in this, as well as other, aspects of the study. The contact for this project is Mr. Walid Saffouri, Division Chief of Project Management. He may be reached at (410) 631-3757.

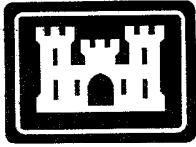
The Department is looking forward to the timely completion of these efforts, and to a continued commitment from the Corps and the federal government to help the State of Maryland implement the projects selected through the feasibility process.

Sincerely,


J.L. Hearn, Director
Water Management Administration

JLH/dp

Cc: Secretary Jane T. Nishida



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

29 October 1998

Public Notice

Smith Island, Maryland, Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study

All Interested Parties: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is preparing a Feasibility Study for the Environmental Restoration and Protection of Smith Island, Maryland. As part of the study, the Baltimore District will complete an Environmental Assessment (EA), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). See attached study area map.

A reconnaissance study was completed in May 1997. The report identified problem areas at each of the three towns on the island and in the Martin Wildlife Refuge. The identified needs are (1) shoreline stabilization and protection at the mouth of Sheep Pen Gut, near Rhodes Point; (2) erosion and storm damage protection at Tylerton; (3) repairs/breach closures in the peninsula between Big Thorofare and the Chesapeake Bay to protect shallow water and SAV habitat; and (4) protection of and re-creation of shallow water habitat in the coves at the north side of the island in the Martin Wildlife Refuge. The report included several alternative plans to improve problem areas, including the use of stone revetments, geotextile tubes, jetties, breakwaters, and other construction methods. A recommended plan will be developed during the feasibility phase.

The decision to implement the recommended plan will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activities on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed project will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposed actions, including the cumulative effects thereof, will be considered. Among these factors are economics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, flood hazards, fish and wildlife values, land use, recreation, aesthetics, water quality, safety, and the general needs and welfare of the people. The Smith Island EA is scheduled to be released for public review in November 2000. The feasibility report is scheduled to be finalized in March 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the Feasibility Study or requests for copies of the reconnaissance report on CD-ROM may be addressed to Mr. Daniel Bierly, Study Team Leader, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CENAB-PL-P, PO BOX 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, telephone 410-962-6139 or 1-800-295-1610; or by fax 410-962-4698 or by electronic mail to cenab-pl-p@usace.army.mil. The reconnaissance report is also available on the Baltimore District's Internet website as an Adobe Acrobat file at [www.nab.usace.army.mil/environmental/smith island/smith.htm](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/environmental/smith%20island/smith.htm).

This notice is being sent to organizations and individuals known to have an interest in the proposed restoration. Please bring this notice to the attention of any other individuals with an interest in this matter. The feasibility phase of the project will include public involvement activities such as public meetings and newsletters. Copies of the 1997 Reconnaissance Report are available for review at the following locations:

- (a) Ewell Public School, Ewell, Maryland
- (b) Martin Wildlife Refuge Offices, Ewell, Maryland
- (c) Rhodes Point Community Center (MAC Center), Rhodes Point, Maryland
- (d) Tylerton Methodist Church, Tylerton, Maryland
- (e) Corbin Memorial Library, 4 East Main St., Crisfield, Maryland
- (f) Somerset County Library, 11767 Beechwood St., Princess Anne, Maryland
- (d) Eastern Shore Public Library, 23610 Front St., Accomac, Virginia
- (e) Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore, Maryland

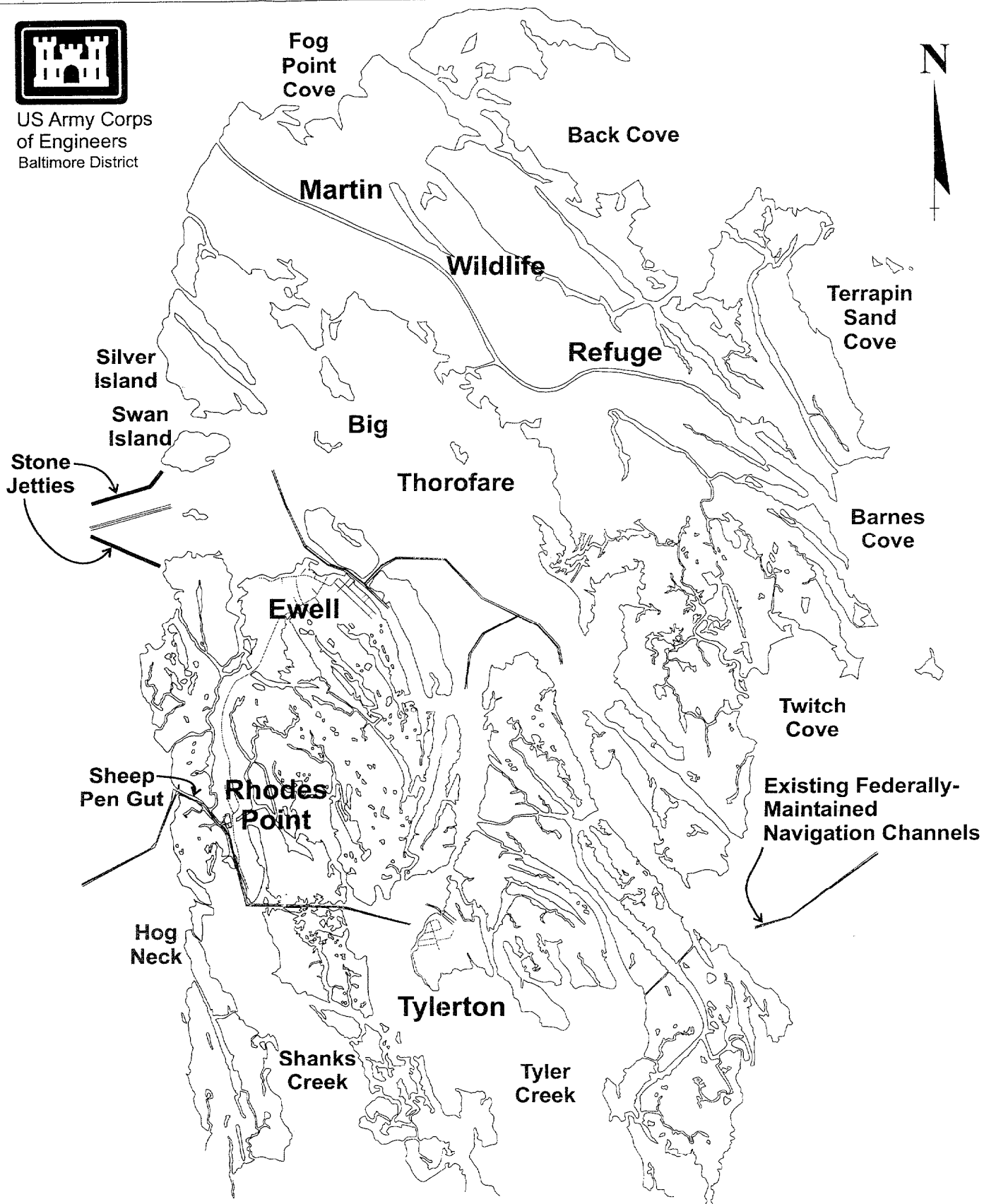


Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Encl



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District



Smith Island, Maryland, Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study Area

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Engineer District, Baltimore
Corps of Engineers, PL-P (Smith Island)
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Official Business



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2500 Broening Highway • Baltimore Maryland 21224
(410) 631-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • <http://www.mde.state.md.us>

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Jane T. Nishida
Secretary

NOV 2 1998

Mr. Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief
Planning Division
Department of the Army
Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore MD 21203-1715

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Secretary Nishida received your recent letter in reference to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) commenting on the development of the **Feasibility Study of Smith Island, Somerset County, Maryland** and asked that I respond to you directly. Copies of the documents were circulated throughout MDE for review, and the following information is offered for your consideration.

The Water Supply Program of MDE's Water Management Administration has indicated that Smith Island is composed of three communities: Tylerton, Rhodes Point, and Ewell. Potable water supplies for the communities are obtained from wells screened in the non-marine Cretaceous aquifer, which is at a depth of 900 feet below land surface. The depth of the wells makes individual domestic wells cost-prohibitive; so communities have formed "cooperatives" to drill wells and manage their water supplies.

Based on information made available to the Water Supply Program, there are no known problems with the quantity of water available from the wells. However, problems with infrastructure exist with small diameter mains. Unclear ownership leads to a lack of responsibility for operation and compliance with drinking water regulations.

The Flood Mitigation Division of MDE's Technical and Regulatory Services Administration (TARSA) has indicated that the entire area of Smith Island, including the communities of Tylerton, Rhodes Point, and Ewell, is within the 100-year floodplain, with a base flood elevation of 5 feet above mean sea level. Smith Island is subject to flooding from major storms affecting the Chesapeake Bay area. Major hurricanes that affected the area occurred in August 1933, and October 1954.

Mr. Harold L. Nelson

Page 2

Ms. Kathy Brohawn, Shellfish Certification Division, Annapolis Field Operations Program, TARSA, maintains an active database on sampling stations used in the vicinity of Smith Island. Sampling is performed primarily for fecal coliform, but may also include temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Sampling stations in the vicinity of Smith Island include stations numbered, 18-02-204, 16-01-205, 16-01-207, 16-01-208, and 16-01-801. (Please see the attached data sheets and maps). For more detailed information pertaining to these sampling performed at Smith Island, please feel free to contact Ms. Brohawn at (410) 631-3608.

Ms. Joan Kean, Director, Department of Technical and Community Services, Somerset County, Maryland, and Mr. Melvin A. Cusick, Director, the Somerset County Roads Department are working closely with the Corps on this project. Ms. Kean has indicated that flooding of the road between Rhodes Point and Ewell is a common problem. For additional information, the Corps is encouraged to contact Ms. Kean at (410) 651-1424 and Mr. Cusick at (410) 651-1930.

Again, thank you for giving MDE the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (410) 631-3680, or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Visty P. Dalal, Chief, Dredging Coordination and Assessment Division, TARSA at (410) 631-3689.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Haire, Director,
Technical and Regulatory Services
Administration

MSH: nkb

Enclosure

cc: Jane T. Nishida, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment
Richard A. Eskin, Technical and Regulatory Services Administration, MDE
Saeid Kasraei, Water Supply Program, Water Management Administration, MDE

February 3, 1988

Smith Island
Map 16 Section 01

Stations - 9

Station
Number

Station
Location

16-01-005

4350 yards west of Adam Island
(Old Nun "A2") in the Chesapeake
Bay (38°08'40" N. Latitude,
76°08'29" W. Longitude)

16-01-007

Center point between S. Adam
Island, N. Spring Island and E.
Point of Holland Island (38°07'59"
N. Latitude, 76°04'38" W.
Longitude)

16-01-008A

Holland Island Bar light and horn
(38°04'06" N. Latitude, 76°05'45"
W. Longitude)

16-01-202

Black and White Can off mouth of
Smith Island Harbor - private
maintained (37°59'54" N. Latitude,
76°04'23" W. Longitude)

16-01-203

State maintained Marker "H"
(37°56'44" N. Latitude, 76°04'32"
W. Longitude)

16-01-205

Light "31" in Big Thorofare
(37°59'28" N. Latitude, 76°01'03"
W. Longitude)

16-01-207

Day Beacon "13" at the southern
mouth of Tyler Ditch (37°58'16" N.
Latitude, 76°01'41" W. Longitude)

16-01-208

Day Beacon "9" in Tyler Creek
(37°57'36" N. Latitude, 76°01'30"
W. Longitude)

* 16-01-801

100 yards west of Green Daymark
"5" (37°58'18" N. Latitude,
76°02'35" W. Longitude)

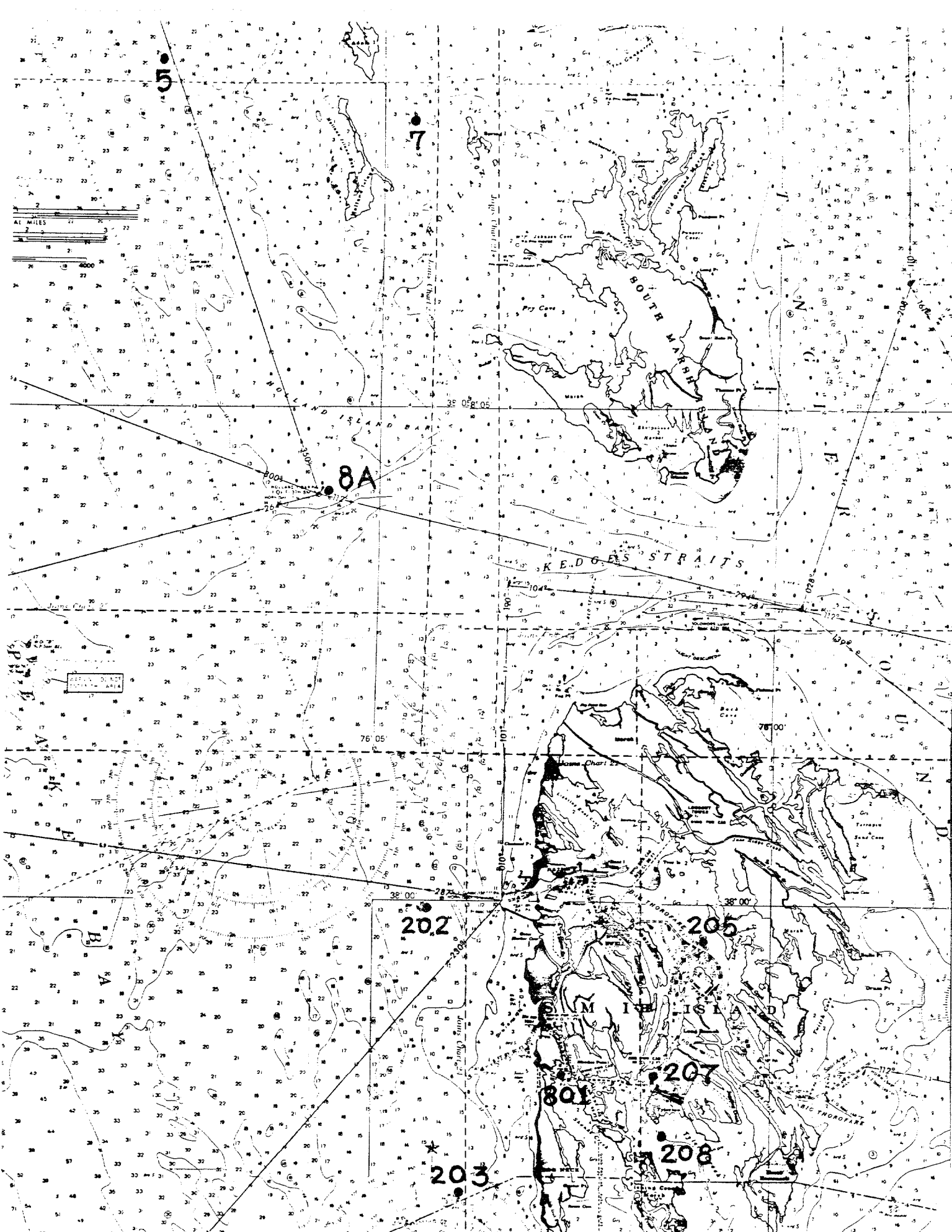
Stations sampled for Salinity, Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, and
p.H.

16-01-008A

16-01-208

16-01-205

* New Station Location



September 30, 1987

**Tangier Sound
(Map 18 Section 2)**

Active Stations- 9

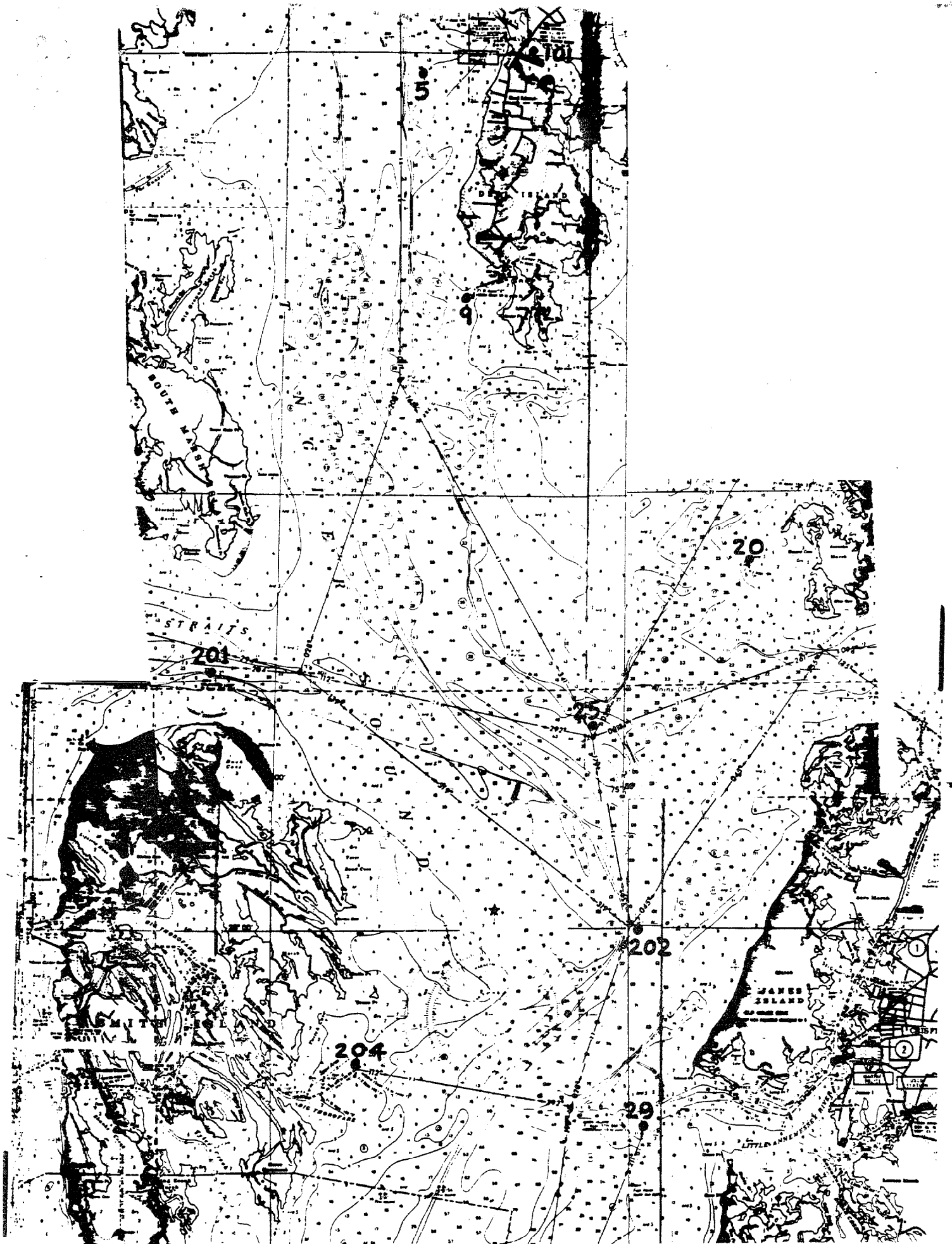
<u>Station Number</u>	<u>Station Location</u>
18-02-005	Nun "18" 1 mile southwest of entrance to Upper Thorofare (38°10'00" North Latitude, 75°58'24" West Longitude)
18-02-009	Nun "2" southwest of entrance to Lower Thorofare (38°07'04" North Latitude, 75°58'08" West Longitude)
18-02-020	300 yards southwest of Flashing Red "2" off Rumbly (38°04'09" North Latitude, 75°53'22" West Longitude)
18-02-025	1 Quick Flashing Red Bell (northwest of Flatcap Point) (38°02'14" North Latitude, 75°55'28" West Longitude)
18-02-029	Can "1" at entrance to Little Annemessex (37°57'36" North Latitude, 75°54'50" West Longitude)
18-02-201	Solomons Lumps Lighthouse (38°02'52" North Latitude, 76°00'55" West Longitude)
18-02-202	Quick Flashing Black Bell "9" (38°00'01" North Latitude, 75°54'58" West Longitude)
18-02-204	Quick Flashing Light "1" at entrance to Big Thorofare (37°58'22" North Latitude, 75°58'47" West Longitude)

UPPER THOROFARE

18-02-101	200 yards inside Deale Island Bridge (38°10'02" North Latitude, 75°56'35" West Longitude)
-----------	---

Stations to be sampled for temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and pH:

18-02-005
18-02-025
18-02-204





**Maryland
Department of
Housing and
Community
Development**

*Division of Historical and
Cultural Programs*

100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032

410-514-7600
1-800-756-0119
Fax: 410-987-4071
Maryland Relay for the Deaf:
1-800-735-2258

<http://www.dhcd.state.md.us>

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Patricia J. Payne
Secretary

Raymond A. Skinner
Deputy Secretary

November 10, 1998

Mr. Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division
Baltimore District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Re: Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection, Maryland:
Reconnaissance Report

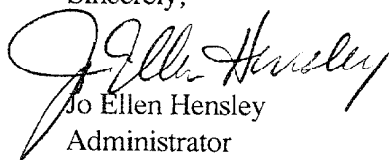
Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for your letter of 2 October 1998 and the above-referenced report of May 1997. We have examined the report with respect to historic preservation concerns.

We do anticipate that the currently proposed projects would adversely impact terrestrial archeological properties. However, we would appreciate being informed of new project planning. We also would like to receive copies of any reports on archeological investigations to be done during the feasibility study.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Dr. Gary Shaffer (terrestrial archeology, 410-514-7638) or Mr. Steven Bilicki (underwater archeology, 410-514-7668).

Sincerely,


Jo Ellen Hensley
Administrator

Project Review and Compliance

JEH/GDS/SRB
9803024

cc: Mrs. Howard Yerges

* Correction per telephone conversation
with Gary Shaffer on Nov. 20, 1998.





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 10, 1998

Planning Division

Librarian
Eastern Shore Public Library
23610 Front Street
Accomac, Virginia 23301

Dear Librarian:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is requesting that the enclosed Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Report be made available for public review at your library. The enclosed Public Notice was sent to several hundred individuals and offices on our mailing list and we anticipate that there may be interest in the report.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Bierly at (410) 962-6139.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 10, 1998

Planning Division

Librarian
ATTN: Ms. Marcia J. Dysart
Business, Science & Technology Department
Enoch Pratt Free Library
400 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Ms. Dysart:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is requesting that the enclosed Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Report be made available for public review at your library. The enclosed Public Notice was sent to several hundred individuals and offices on our mailing list and we anticipate that there may be interest in the report.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Bierly at (410) 962-6139.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 10, 1998

Planning Division

Librarian
Somerset County Library
11767 Beechwood Street
Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

Dear Librarian:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is requesting that the enclosed Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Report be made available for public review at your library. The enclosed Public Notice was sent to several hundred individuals and offices on our mailing list and we anticipate that there may be interest in the report.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Bierly at (410) 962-6139.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 10, 1998

Planning Division

Librarian
Corbin Memorial Library
4 East Main Street
Crisfield, Maryland 21817

Dear Librarian:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is requesting that the enclosed Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Report be made available for public review at your library. The enclosed Public Notice was sent to several hundred individuals and offices on our mailing list and we anticipate that there may be interest in the report.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Bierly at (410) 962-6139.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 10, 1998

Planning Division

Secretary
Tylerton Methodist Church
Tylerton, Maryland 21866

Dear Secretary:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is requesting that the enclosed Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Report be made available for public review in your church library. The enclosed Public Notice was sent to several hundred individuals and offices on our mailing list and we anticipate that there may be interest in the report.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Bierly at (410) 962-6139.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 10, 1998

Planning Division

Manager
Rhodes Point Community Center
Rhodes Point, Maryland 21858

Dear Manager:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is requesting that the enclosed Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Report be made available for public review at your community center. The enclosed Public Notice was sent to several hundred individuals and offices on our mailing list and we anticipate that there may be interest in the report.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Bierly at (410) 962-6139.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 10, 1998

Planning Division

Mr. Michael Harrison
Manager
Martin Wildlife Refuge Office
Ewell, Maryland 21824

Dear Mr. Harrison:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is requesting that the enclosed Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Report be made available for public review at your office. The enclosed Public Notice was sent to several hundred individuals and offices on our mailing list and we anticipate that there may be interest in the report.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Bierly at (410) 962-6139.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 10, 1998

Planning Division

Librarian
Ewell Public School
Ewell, Maryland 21824

Dear Librarian:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is requesting that the enclosed Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Report be made available for public review at your library. The enclosed Public Notice was sent to several hundred individuals and offices on our mailing list and we anticipate that there may be interest in the report.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Bierly at (410) 962-6139.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Nelson
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

PUBLIC LANDS
Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

John R. Griffin
Secretary

Carolyn D. Davi
Deputy Secretary

January 22, 1999

Ms. Daria Blumenauer
Programs and Project Management
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Dear Ms. Blumenauer:

This letter is in reference to the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Project (Project). I would like to bring an important issue to your attention concerning the Project currently in the Feasibility Study Phase (Study). The project partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Somerset County. However, a very important name is missing, that of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The cost sharing formula agreed to by the partners prior to initiation of the Study included \$1.47 million to be provided by USFWS for study and construction purposes. It is our understanding that no USFWS funds have been appropriated for this project. Unfortunately, without these funds the overall scope of the Project will have to be reduced and valuable portions of the Project may have to be eliminated.

We would like to meet with the Study partners as soon as possible to evaluate the proposed Study elements and determine which portions should be cut back to compensate for the reduction in available funds. Please call me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Jordan R. Loran
Eastern Region Chief
Engineering & Construction Program

cc: Virginia Kearney, MDE
Charles Massey, Somerset Co.
Robert Gaudette, DNR
Stacey Underwood, USACE ✓

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection, Maryland

Site Visit and Agency Meeting

3 March 1999

Attendees:

Cornelia Pasche	MdDNR	410-260-8741
Doldon Moore	MDE	410-631-8075
Steve Dawson	MDE	410-543-6703
John Nichols	NMFS	410-226-5771
Robin Street	Somerset County	410-651-3831
Glenn Carowan	USFWS	410-228-2677
John Gill	USFWS	410-573-4529
Peter Bergstrom	USFWS	410-
Mike Harrison	USFWS	410-425-4971
Paul Thompson	Advanced Technology Systems	
CJ Winand	USACE - Engineering	410-962-6007
Dave Capka	USACE - Engineering	410-962-6811
Kevin Luebke	USACE - Operations	410-962-3675
Dan Bierly	USACE - Planning	410-962-6139
Daria Blumenauer	USACE - PPM	410-962-3457
Chris Spaur	USACE - Planning	410-962-6134

1. The attendees met at 9 am at the DNR Police station in Crisfield, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to convene representatives of interested agencies on Smith Island to consider and discuss their points of view on the Corps' proposed projects. Information on the proposed projects is contained within the May 1997 *Smith Island, Maryland, Environmental Restoration and Protection Reconnaissance Report*. A map (copy is attached) depicting the proposed project locations was provided to all attendees. All projects are concept level at this time and agency input is being solicited. Ralph Spagnola of EPA Region III was invited but did not attend.
2. The attendees were taken by the DNR Police to Ewell to meet up with Mike Harrison, the Martin Wildlife Refuge Manager. At Ewell, Mr. Bierly provided a short introductory briefing on the proposed projects contained in the *Smith Island Reconnaissance Report*. Mr. Bierly stressed that the recommendations were very preliminary and that the study team wanted to hear comments and concerns so that the designs could be altered or improved before final recommendations were made. The attendees split into two groups due to the capacity limitations on the boats. Mike Harrison took Ms. Blumenauer, and Messrs. Capka, Gill, Carowan, and Bierly in his whaler, and the others went with Dan Harrison in his larger boat. This allowed the agencies to be represented on one boat.

The engineering and management Corps team members went on the whaler, while the Corps' environmental staff escorted the agency representatives on the other boat. Mr. Street and Mr. Thompson, a contractor from Pittsburgh, went on to Tylerton separately to investigate proposed work at the sewer treatment plant in Tylerton.

3. From Ewell, the team traveled westward through the jetties, and then southward along the western shoreline of the island to Sheep Pen Gut. Potential projects under consideration for Sheep Pen Gut include stabilizing the mouth of the gut, constructing a jetty on the north side, and realigning the navigation channel so that it is aligned more directly to deep water. Agency representatives expressed concerns over potential downdrift impacts that a new jetty might have here, and requested that this issue be evaluated. The team then proceeded further south to the geotextile tubes that Operations Division of the Baltimore District has deployed over the last 5 or 6 years at Hog Neck. Approximately 30% of the tubes have failed and are now down. Some were damaged during construction, while other tubes were damaged through accident after their deployment. The material placed behind the tubes is believed to still be mostly in place, in spite of the tubes themselves not performing well. Apparently, with current technology, the tubes can not be counted on for long-term use. The Baltimore District believes that their application in temporary situations is still viable; however, other uses should be reevaluated. Dissatisfaction with the tubes was evident among the agency representatives. The MDE representatives in particular were dissatisfied with the tubes and will recommend that the State not share in the cost of tube placement in the future. It is not clear at this time if that includes all uses, including such things as temporary breach closures, or the like.
4. From Sheep Pen Gut the group proceeded north, back to the jetties. The jetty rehabilitation project is still ongoing. Just north of the jetties, in an area that has been considered for wetlands creation, Mr. Harrison pointed out that SAV has been flourishing. He recommended that a project be designed to create a cove area to allow the SAV bed to expand. A project of this type will be considered. A jetty-like structure or perhaps segmented breakwaters would be required. North of this area where breaches have formed over the last several years through Swan and Silver Islands, Mr. Harrison likes the Corps' recommendation of creating wetlands habitat by filling in what is now shallow water habitat and protecting it with a low, stone shoreline protection structure. At this point the issue of using offshore borrow sites to provide a source of material for tidal wetlands creation/restoration was brought up. John Gill of USFWS said that the Service would not disapprove if the cuts were shallow and likely to fill back in. The other agency representatives were either equivocal or cautiously agreed with Mr. Gill's assessment. In contrast, John Nichols of NMFS said that NMFS would oppose the use of any borrow that does not come from the navigation channels around the island. Baltimore District staff said that consideration is also being given to constructing stand-alone offshore segmented breakwaters, without placing fill to create tidal marsh. Environmental benefits would be derived from the breakwaters slowing shoreline erosion to protect existing wetlands, and creating protected waters within which SAV beds could survive. The breakwaters would trap sediment in their lee, and potentially

allow beaches to form, or perhaps locally increase wetland habitat if enough material accreted. If no material can be used from borrow sites outside of the existing navigation channels, the State of Maryland's intent to maximize wetlands creation at Smith Island would be hampered. The volume of material that could be taken from the navigation channels is very limited and not sufficient for the larger projects that are envisioned in this study effort. Agency representatives didn't oppose use of breakwaters in this area to control shoreline erosion and protect the existing tidal marsh and quiet waters within which SAV beds occur.

5. The boats then proceeded further north and eastward up the coast. Mr. Harrison indicated landmarks to show the extent of erosion over the past years and decades. The next proposed project area was Fog Point Cove along the northern shoreline of the island. This cove is very exposed to the open bay now due to erosion of the protective spit of land. The area still has SAV, and bed-health could be improved with the addition of some protection from wave energy and excess siltation. Wave protection for this area was originally envisioned to be provided by geotextile tubes; however, given the negative feeling toward tubes expressed at the meeting, breakwaters will be considered. Mr. Harrison indicated that the water in the area was shallow, which may allow for stone structures to be constructed within acceptable cost levels. The team traveled further eastward along the north shoreline to Back Cove. The reconnaissance-level recommendation included segmented geotextile tube breakwaters to enclose the entirety of Back Cove. Mr. Harrison does not believe it is necessary to enclose the area. He would rather see stone shoreline protection along the existing, but rapidly eroding, peninsula of land that shields the northern side of the cove. He would also like to see that peninsula extended either through land creation or a stone jetty-like structure. Currently, Back Cove has large SAV beds and is considered extremely valuable habitat. Due to time constraints and high winds and chop, the team did not proceed around the eastern side of the island to Terrapin Sand Cove where segmented breakwaters have also been proposed to protect SAV beds and the existing salt marsh, much as at Back Cove.
6. After lunch in Ewell, the attendees boarded the DNR Police boat and went to Tylerton. The proposed project in Tylerton includes shoreline protection along the western shoreline with some level of flood protection. It is understood that any flood protection that is provided will not be sufficient to prevent major storms from flooding the town. The intent is to prevent tide-induced nuisance flooding that is now commonplace. Agency representatives did not see any major environmental issues that would impede implementation of this project. However, there was some discussion as to the minor loss of fringe wetlands to the project, but that loss could be mitigated for using plantings behind the stone structure. It is likely that this issue could be easily resolved during project design. The tide was close to high as the team walked south along the shoreline. The attendees have a good appreciation of how close the town's houses are to the water.
7. The attendees boarded the DNR boat and returned to Crisfield at approximately 3:45 pm.

29 March 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD (MFR)

SUBJECT: 26 March 1999 Executive Committee meeting for the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study. --

1. An Executive Committee Meeting was held on 26 March 1999 at the Baltimore District office for the above referenced feasibility study. The purposes of the meeting were as follows:

- Brief senior executives on the status of the study.
- Executive Committee decision on the implementation of the Tylerton project under Section 510, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program.
- Discuss funding requirements in FY 00 and FY 01 to complete the feasibility study and to implement the Tylerton project under Section 510.
- Discuss design/construction costs of the remaining feasibility study projects.

Executive Committee members in attendance were James Dunmyer (acting for John Griffin), Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Jane Nishida, Maryland Department of the Environment; Phillip Gerald, Somerset County; and COL Bruce Berwick, Baltimore District Corps of Engineers. Executive Committee agreements/decisions are summarized in paragraphs 3 and 4. After introductions and opening remarks by the Executive Committee members; Ms. Daria Blumenauer, Corps project manager, reviewed the scope of the feasibility cost sharing agreement. A list of attendees and pertinent slides from the presentation are attached.

2. Study Status – Mr. Dan Bierly, Corps study manager, provided a brief overview of the study progress. The majority of the existing conditions (i.e. drilling, surveys, socio-economic and environmental) have been defined at this point in the study. Plan formulation continues with development of concept designs, creation of hydraulic model and alternative analysis by SAV expert. The different design alternatives for each of the projects was presented.
3. Implementation of Tylerton under Section 510 – Ms. Blumenauer indicated that the Tylerton project had been identified as the MD project for the Section 510 program by the State. The Section 510 program has a cost sharing arrangement of 75% federal and 25% non-Federal. A design agreement is required to begin design work and a project cooperation agreement prior to start of construction. Therefore, no additional authorization is required by Congress to begin construction. Implementation of this project under Section 510 is desirable for the following reasons: better cost sharing arrangement for the non-Federal sponsor and allow the project to get to construction quicker. The schedule for the Tylerton project is execute design agreement in July 1999, complete design work in April 2000, award construction contract in July 2000 and complete construction in July 2001. The estimated total design and construction

cost is \$2 Million. See attached slide number 12 for cash flow requirements.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION: Executive Committee members agreed to implement the Tylerton project under Section 510. *Action: The feasibility cost sharing agreement will be amended to reflect implementation of the Tylerton project under Section 510. A design agreement will be executed for the Tylerton project under Section 510.* --

4. Rescoped Feasibility Study and Remaining Cash Flow Requirements – Ms. Blumenauer presented information on the non-Federal funding requirements in FY 2000 and FY 2001 to complete the feasibility study (see attached slide number 11). In FY 2000 a total of \$156,000 is required. Of this \$156,000, \$126,000 is a cash contribution and \$30,000 is in-kind services. In FY 2001, a total of \$30,000 is required. Of this \$30,000, \$20,000 is a cash contribution and \$10,000 is in-kind services. Ms. Blumenauer stressed that this does not reflect any cost savings to the study due to implementing the Tylerton project under Section 510. Cost savings are anticipated and will be determined by the team, which includes members from both the State agencies, Somerset County and the Corps. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGREEMENT: Executive Committee members confirmed that both federal and non-Federal funding will be available to complete the remaining projects in the feasibility study. *Action: Same as in paragraph number 3.*
5. Long Term Implementation Costs – Ms. Blumenauer presented the long term implementation costs for Rhodes Point, the breaches along west shoreline, and the cove restoration projects (see attached slide number 13). The non-Federal sponsor is concerned with being able to meet their contribution of the construction costs. Mr. Steve Funderburk, US Fish and Wildlife Service North American Wetlands Commission and Ms. Karen Hester, US Fish and Wildlife Foundation discussed grant programs, which are possible funding sources to assist with construction costs. According to the current study schedule, the feasibility report will be completed in May 2001 making the projects available for authorization in WRDA 2002. Therefore, federal construction funds will not be available until FY 2004. In order to get the projects to construction sooner than FY 2004, other authorities will be investigated such as a Continuing Authority Program and the Section 510 Program. *Action: The State will investigate funding sources to assist with their contribution of construction costs.*



Daria L. Blumenauer, P.E.
Project Manager
Baltimore District Corps of Engineers



Long Term Implementation

(\$000)

FY01 FY02 FY03 FY04 TOT

Rhds. Point	NF	20	20	0	600	640
	FED	80	80	0	2400	2560
Brchs West	NF	35	35	0	1050	1120
Shore Line	FED	65	65	0	1950	2080
Coves	NF	18	18	0	525	561
	FED	32	32	0	975	1039
Total	250	250	0	7500	8000	

Projects authorized in WRDA 2002.



Tyllerton Project Cash Flow Under Section 510 (75/25)

	(\$000)			
	FY99	FY00	FY01	Total
Non-	25	225	250	500
(62K)				
Fed				
(62K)	75	675	750	1500
Fed				
Total	100	900	1000	2000

Execute design agreement in July 99. Design work in FY99 and FY00.
Award construction contract in July 00. Complete construction in July 01.



Rescoped Feasibility Study Cash Flow

(\$000)	Year	Non-Fed	Federal
Tylerton	98	3	47
	99	59	15
Other	98	8	143
Projects	99	371	237
	00	156	156
	01	30	30
Total		627	628

Remaining in-kind services is \$40K. Total cash needed is \$145K.
Does not reflect cost savings of implementing Tylerton under SEC 510.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District



MDE

Smith Island

Environmental Restoration and Protection Study

June 1999

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1

Public Information Meeting

Members of the study team working on the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Study will meet with Island residents on July 14th to present information about current study activities, progress on technical investigations, and the project schedule. Study team members represent the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It has been some time since team members have met with the community at large and we are looking forward to discussing recent project developments. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00pm on July 14, 1999, at the Rhodes Point Community Center.

In addition to the evening presentation, members of the study team will stop at Ruke's for lunch prior to the Rhodes Point meeting (on the 14th) and will visit the Drum Point Market on the morning of the 15th. Team members will be happy to meet with anyone who is interested and answer questions or just talk about the project at both those locations.



Project Status

The project is on schedule. Work is progressing on each of the four project components: erosion protection at Tylerton and Sheep Pen Gut (Rhodes Point), closing shoreline gaps and creating wetlands along the northwest shoreline, and recreating the coves at the north end of the Island. With the support of Senators Mikulski and Sarbanes and Congressman Gilchrest, the erosion protection plan for Tylerton has been "spun off" from the main project to the Corps' Section 510 program for the design and construction of projects in the Chesapeake Bay. After preparation of plans and specifications during the coming months and with funding support from the State, Tylerton will be the first project component to be constructed, with work beginning as soon as summer 2000. Separate funding for the construction of erosion protection at Rhodes Point has not yet been received; however, it is still being pursued by the study team. Completion of other portions of the study, including erosion protection and wetland creation along the northwest shoreline and the coves at the north end of the island, will continue on the normal Corps schedule.

Activities

A number of technical teams have visited the island during the last 10 months to investigate factors such as wildlife habitat, the economic importance of the Sheep Pen Gut inlet, and the locations, amounts, and types of sediments in the surrounding waters. You may have seen the teams at various locations around the island or they may have requested information from you. We appreciate the assistance you have provided. Studies in support of each of the project components are continuing; however, the focus in the coming months will be on completing the technical studies needed for the Tylerton erosion protection project and further defining the exact solutions to be recommended at the other sites.

Next Step

In addition to the July 14 meeting, Island residents may see study team members – from the Corps, MDE, DNR, or the University of Maryland - on or around the Island during the summer and fall of 1999. Members of the study team will be conducting research on sea grasses (SAV), drilling test borings in proposed construction areas to determine the strength of foundation soils, and gathering information for a biological assessment, which will document the impacts of the projects on the environment. Dr. Evamaria Koch, of the University of Maryland's Horn Point Environmental Laboratory, is one of the team members you may meet on the Island or in area waters. Dr. Koch is an expert on sea grasses and, with her students, has compiled maps of sea grass beds in the area. Some of Dr. Koch's findings will be presented at the public meeting.



Remember the Public Information Meeting in Rhodes Point on July 14th

Smith Island Public Meeting
July 14th, 1999

Minutes:

- **Schedule Update—Daria**

- Tylerton—The Corps is moving ahead through the section 510 program. Construction to begin as of summer 2000 (accounting for environmental, crab operation windows). Because of SAV, available labor—construction may actually be in Fall, Winter.
- Feasibility—still going ahead as planned. Construction to begin in 2002? In response to a question, Dan replied that we are trying to beat this schedule by moving things into other Continuing Authority programs.

- **Project Updates—Dan**

- Jetties—Starting to have sand pile up. Construction of the jetties is nearing completion.
- Geotubes—13 out of 20 still remaining. The material is staying in place.
- Wastewater Treatment plant—received the approval to implement under section 510, but there is not funding to build anything. Tylerton plant is in most danger, thus has priority
- Investigations—many studies on-going, with some completed. Economists have been to island, preliminary environmental work done. But, there will be further drilling, new surveying/mapping of the Tylerton project area. The Corps is currently modeling flow in Sheep Pen Gut.
- SAV Update—EVA Koch (UMD—Horn PT. Lab)—connection was found between SAV and shore erosion. To protect SAV, the Corps should protect shoreline, block fine sediments, and encourage light for the SAV. There is a cyclical loop—less SAV, more wave action, more waves—more erosion, less SAV
- Back Cove—it is probably more effective to protect the remaining shoreline than build off-shore breakwaters.
- Rhodes Pt. Jetty—plans to straighten channel, protect with a jetty.
- Tylerton—Replacement bulkhead on western shore, stone sill on southern shoreline, may tie into mosquito ditches (although local residents say there are gaps). Concern was expressed about the Northern section between existing bulkhead and harbor.

- **Local Concerns**

- Concerns were expressed over Northern tie-in to harbor
- Concern was expressed over mosquito ditches—gaps, uncertain repair
- Concern was expressed over the stone toe—questions on if they are hazards to navigation
- Concern was expressed over type of wood used—treated wood does not fare well on the island. Are there other effective alternatives?
- How high will the bulkhead be—will it offer any flood protection?

- Winter schedule—more local labor to help on the project, no SAV during the winter
- Housing for contractors—space is limited in Tylerton.
- Concern expressed over possible erosion/flooding near the wastewater treatment plant in Tylerton.

Initial Public Information Meeting – July 14, 1999

The initial public information meeting for the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study was held at the Rhodes Point Community Center on July 14, 1999. The meeting began at 6:00 in the evening and lasted until about 8:00. Approximately 30 island residents attended the meeting. Study team members representing the Corps, the DNR, and the University of Maryland's Horn Point Lab participated in the meeting, providing information and responding to questions. The US Fish and Wildlife Service was represented by Martin Wildlife Refuge Manager Mike Harrison and Keith Weaver, from the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information on the study status, with a focus on the potential construction of shore protection at Tylerton. Study Manager Dan Bierly provided an overview of all Corps activities on the island, including those not part of the feasibility study, such as jetty repair, geotube condition, and the wastewater treatment plant. His report also included the status of technical investigations completed or being carried out in support of the feasibility study, such as economics, sediments, and wildlife habitat. Project Manager Daria Blumenauer discussed the project schedule, and Dr. Evamaria Koch, of the Horn Point Lab, provided a summary of SAV growth in the Smith Island area.

Information on the Tylerton project that was presented included the expected replacement of the existing bulkhead along the western shore of the town and construction of a stone sill along the southern shoreline. The expected start date for construction is the Summer or Fall of 1999. Island residents attending the meeting asked several questions about the height of the proposed bulkhead and the level of flood protection that would be provided. They also expressed some concerns about the project, including the limited life expectancy of wooden bulkheads, the need for the bulkhead to be connected to the harbor area, gaps in the existing "levees" along the mosquito ditches, and the possible navigation hazard if stone is placed at the toe of the bulkhead. Other issues raised included the availability of island residents to work on the project during the winter months and the limited housing space for off-island workers.

I can provide the following services for the Tylerton project:

Lodging ☐ **Boat** ☐ **Food** ☐ **Labor** ☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Phone:** _____

Dates Available: _____

Description of Resources (boat size/type; number of rooms; skills/experience, etc.):

Other comments: _____

I can provide the following services for the Tylerton project:

Lodging ☐ **Boat** ☐ **Food** ☐ **Labor** ☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Phone:** _____

Dates Available: _____

Description of Resources (boat size/type; number of rooms; skills/experience, etc.):

Other comments: _____

llcraft

CENAB-PL-P

14 September 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Smith Island, Minutes from Meeting held 8 September 1999 with Representatives from Woodrow Wilson Bridge (WWB) Project. Sign in sheet is attached.

1. A meeting was held on 8 September 1999 at the Baltimore District offices to discuss the possibility of using material removed from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (WWB) project to create wetlands on Smith Island. The meeting began at 1:00 and was attended by representatives from the Corps as well as Ms. Elizabeth Brewer and Mr. Ted Hogan from the WWB project. Attendees' names are shown on the attached attendance sheet.
2. Background information was provided on both the WWB project (Ms. Brewer) and on the Smith Island project (Ms. Anderson-Austra). Mr. Kopecky presented information on the preliminary design alternatives for the two project components at Swan and Silver Islands and the Martin Refuge coves. Mr. Leimbach provided preliminary costs for several alternatives that would create wetlands and protect the northwest shoreline of the island, which includes Swan and Silver Islands. Mr. Leimbach noted that the costs did not include construction features necessary for the containment of silty material, such as sand tightening the breakwater/sill and constructing a barrier to keep the material from the existing marsh.
3. During the discussion after the presentations, the following comments were made concerning WWB placement options and Smith Island material needs.
 - It was noted that Corps sediment experts needed access to information on the WWB material, including labs used, tests performed, and test results. Ms. Brewer said the information would be provided to the Corps.
 - Ms. Brewer said the WWB team had a list of 11 potential placement options and was preparing a matrix to aid their selection of a placement site for WWB material. She said a placement site in Prince George's County (the Panorama Landfill) could accommodate the initial 350,000cy of material for a cost of \$12 – 15 per yard for both transportation and disposal.
 - CJ Winand suggested that silty material could be capped with sand to help keep it in place.
 - Ms. Brewer asked about costs that could be shared if the 150,000cy of material expected to be removed from the WWB site in 2004 could be used at Smith Island. Ms. Blumenauer said she would provide that information.
 - Ms. Blumenauer stated that using the 350,000cy of material expected in October 2000 at Smith Island was probably not economically feasible. The additional 150,000cy of material expected in 2004 might be used to restore the coves at Smith Island if a structure was designed and built to contain silty material.
 - Mr. Hogan pointed out the containment structure would have to be designed to prevent washover of silt onto the marsh and wetland plants.
 - Mr. Winand suggested that Federal, state, and local agencies be contacted and asked for ideas for how to place silt on Smith Island.
 - Mr. Klosterman stated that the Smith Island team needed to compare project costs and benefits.

Smith Island and Woodrow Wilson Bridge Meeting
September 8, 1999

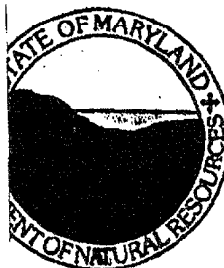
Sign In, Please

Name	Phone number	Internet address
1. C.J. WINAND	410-962-6007	c.j.winand@usace.army.mil
2. Oliver Leimbach	410 962 3974	Oliver.G.Leimbach@USACE.Army.mil
3. Daria Blumenauer	410 962 3457	Daria.L.Blumenauer@usace.army.mil
4. DAVE CAPRA	410 962 6311	DAVID.B.CAPRA@USACE.Army.mil
5. James R. Snyder	410-962-6817	james.r.snyder@usace.army.mil
6. Larry Matigano	410-962-6817	larry.matigano@usace.army.mil
7. Bob BLAMA	410-962-6068	robert.N.blama@USACE.Army.mil
8. Elizabeth Brewer	703-519-9800	ebrewer.brewer@wwbgcc.com
9. Denny Klosterman	410-962-3215	dennis.g.klosterman@usace.army.mil
10. Ted Hogan	(410) 785-7220	ted_hogan@urscorp.com
11. C. ANDERSON-AUSTRA	410 962 2910	carol.anderson-austra@usace.army.mil
12. S. KOPECKY	(410) 962-3413	steven.A.Kopecky@USACE.Army.mil
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20.		

OCT. 13. 1999 3:21PM COASTAL ZONE MGT

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages > 2

To <i>David P. Minges</i>	From <i>Cornelia W. Kar</i>
Co. <i>COE</i>	Co. <i>MDNR</i>
Dept.	Phone # <i>410 260-8737</i>
Fax # <i>410 962-9312</i>	Fax #



NO. 449 P. 1/2

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Chesapeake and Coastal Watershed Service
Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers, Ph
Secretary

Stanley K. Arthur
Deputy Secretary

5 October 1999

Mr. David Minges
Chesapeake Bay Trust
60 West Street, Suite 200-A
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: CBT Funding Proposal Letter
of Intent

Dear Mr. Minges:

Smith Island, Maryland's last inhabited Chesapeake Bay island, is comprised almost entirely of wetland habitat and supports a high concentration of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV). These habitats provide shelter, nesting, staging, and nursery grounds for a variety of species important to Maryland, including the blue crab and the Federally-listed endangered American peregrine falcon.

Smith Island lies in an exposed location 12 miles west of Crisfield, Maryland with a long open-water fetch from the west, southwest and northwest. Due to the exposed nature of Smith Island, the area is frequently subject to erosion and flooding. Erosion estimates indicate a loss of over 3,000 acres of land (mostly wetlands) since 1850. The project described below will help reduce the rate of erosion and maintain and increase wetland and SAV habitats in and around Smith.

As part of a larger habitat restoration, enhancement and protection effort being conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Maryland Dept of Natural Resources, Maryland Dept of the Environment, and Somerset County, this project would support the restoration of wetland habitat in the northern section of Smith Island in the Martin National Wildlife Refuge. The erosion of several coves on the northern shoreline has resulted in wetland loss and has produced a downward trend in SAV.

Support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust would assist in logistical support and transportation, plant material and planting supplies, rock, gravel and sand materials, planting tools and equipment rental. Volunteers would be asked to help with logistical assistance, including providing boat transportation for volunteers and materials and would also help with the preparation of the planting sites as well as the planting of marsh grasses. Depending on the availability of appropriate marsh plants, volunteers may also help in the establishment of marsh plants from seed and assist in the maintenance of a marsh plant nursery.

Telephone: _____
DNR TTY for the Deaf (410) 260-8835
Toll Free #: 1-877-620-8DNR

Requested Funding Amount: \$50,000

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for funding through the Chesapeake Bay Trust. For further information, please contact me at 410.260.8737.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cornelia Pasche Wikar".

Cornelia Pasche Wikar
Coastal Hazards Planner

cc Teresa Moore, DNR



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District



Smith Island

Environmental Restoration and Protection Study

December 1999

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 2

Update on Smith Island Studies

Both of the Smith Island studies are on schedule. Study team members working on both the Tylerton Shore Protection Study and the Smith Island Environmental Restoration Study have visited the Island recently to meet with residents and to complete technical investigations. An Environmental Assessment (EA), which documents the impacts of proposed shore protection project on the Tylerton area, is being reviewed by local, state, and Federal agencies. The proposed project would replace the existing deteriorated bulkhead and add a low stone sill to protect the shoreline at the south end of Tylerton. A contractor, S. Powell Construction Company, of Weirton, West Virginia, has been hired to design and construct the project and is expected to begin work on the island late next summer.

Although the Tylerton study has more "visibility" at this time, progress is also being made on the Smith Island Environmental Restoration Study. This study will include navigation improvements at Rhodes Point, construction of shoreline protection and wetland creation along the shoreline north of Swan Island, and restoration of the coves at the north end of the island. This study is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2001.



In addition to these two studies, funding has been received by the DNR to restore a small wetland area on Smith Island. Several eroding wetlands in the Ewell area are being considered for restoration and replanting. The wetland restoration would be a small-scale project constructed with the help of volunteers and would provide an opportunity for environmental education and additional visibility for the island. The project is planned for the summer of 2000.

Study Team at Tylerton

On October 25 several study team members visited Tylerton to walk along the project alignment with residents and to discuss the alternative plans being considered. At informal gatherings in the afternoon and evening, study team members from the Corps and from Powell Construction Company discussed the project and the areas around Tylerton that will have most of the construction impacts, such as parts of the road and front yards along the bulkhead.

At an evening meeting in the church basement, approximately 30 residents met with study team members to discuss project alternatives and resources, such as food, lodging, and labor, that island residents might supply during project construction. Study team members discussed alternative bulkhead construction material - including wood, steel, or vinyl - that could be used for the new bulkhead. The study team showed a sample of the vinyl bulkhead material and explained that vinyl costs less than steel and lasts longer than wood, comes in several colors, and is easy to maintain.

Tylerton residents expressed interest in the vinyl and the study team is doing further research on the product. Tylerton residents also expressed a strong interest in constructing stone shoreline protection as far as possible around the south shoreline of the island.

During the discussion on island resources, it was agreed that the Corps would organize lists of island residents who might supply labor, boats, food, lodging, or other services needed during construction. The purpose of preparing the lists is to assist the contractor in finding convenient sources for supplies and services and to help island residents achieve economic, in addition to other project benefits. Based on the lists, the contractor would contact island residents to provide services as needed.

Attached to this newsletter is a form that can be filled out and mailed to the Corps. The forms will provide basic information on the kind of support and services that the contractor can expect to find on the island. Because the start of project construction is scheduled for next summer, lists prepared at this time will be preliminary. Further coordination between the Corps, the contractor, and island residents will be completed before construction begins. If there are questions, please call or write

Carol Anderson-Austra at 410-962-2910 or at the address on this newsletter.



Happy Holidays To Everyone!



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
CENAB-PL (ATTN: Tylerton)
PO Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715



Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Stanley K. Arthur
Deputy Secretary

December 21, 1999

Colonel Bruce A. Berwick
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Re: Tylerton, Smith Island Shoreline Protection Project

Dear Colonel Berwick:

This letter is to indicate the intent of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Department) to sign the Project Cooperation Agreement and act as the non-Federal sponsor for the design and construction of the above referenced project. The project will generally include: on the western shore of Tylerton - installation of approximately 2000 l.f. of shoreline protection, structure alternatives could be stone revetment or bulkhead; and, on the southern shore of Tylerton - 2,000 l.f. of marsh protection, structure types could be a combination of stone sill and stone revetment.

It is our understanding that the project will be completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under the terms of Section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. Section 510 provides that shoreline and habitat improvements will be cost shared at the rate of 75% Federal/25% non-Federal.

The estimated non-Federal share of \$500,000 will be provided by the Department to the Corps through General Obligation bonds approved by the Maryland State Legislature in FY 99 and FY 2000. These funds are available to meet the time schedule proposed by the Corps.

We look forward to working with you to complete the improvements to this important regional site. If you have any questions, please call Jordan Loran, Project Manager for the Department, at 410-260-8907.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers, PhD
Secretary

cc: Somerset County Commissioners
James W. Dunmyer
Mike Nelson
Robert Gaudette
Jordan Loran

Telephone: (410) 260-8101
DNR TTY for the Deaf: (410) 260-8835
Toll Free #: 1-877-620-8DNR



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District



Smith Island

Environmental Restoration and Protection Study

March 2000

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 3

Progress on Tylerton Project

Work is progressing on the Tylerton shore protection project. A number of tasks are being completed to prepare for construction to begin late this summer. Two legal requirements for the project have been accomplished: an Environmental Assessment (EA) documenting environmental impacts of the Tylerton project has been reviewed by agencies and a Finding of No Significant Impact was signed by the District Engineer of the Baltimore Corps. In addition, a survey and map of Tylerton have been completed and the Maryland Department of the Environment has issued a water quality certification, clearing the way for project construction. The next step will be obtaining temporary and permanent real estate easements. Easements are documents that provide legal access to property that will not be purchased for the project.

Property Easements

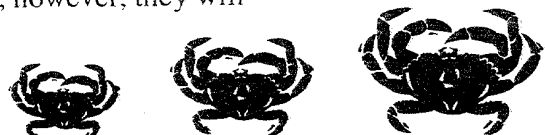
Temporary Easements – Some private property will be needed for the movement and storage of supplies and equipment only during project construction. Temporary easements will be used to secure access across these properties for a limited amount of time. After the new bulkhead is constructed, the temporary easements will expire. Most of the temporary easements will be needed to do construction work on properties located along the road or near the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) building and the harbor. Additional temporary easements will be needed for equipment and material storage areas at several locations along the project alignment and near the wastewater treatment plant.

Permanent Easements - Property limits for homes along Tylerton Road generally include a small portion of land between the western edge of the road and the existing bulkhead. Permanent easements will be used to secure access across these properties so that the State and County can do periodic maintenance on the new bulkhead. Property owners on Tylerton Road will still own the small pieces of land between the road and the bulkhead, but the permanent easements will allow the State or County access when necessary and be recorded in county land records.

The County currently has a "prescriptive right" to use Tylerton Road for maintenance of the road and utilities and the road will also be used for project construction activities. With the exception of temporary easements for storage areas along the road and small work areas near the CBF and harbor, the landward or eastern edge of the road will be the project limit. The area between the seaward or western edge of the road and the new bulkhead will be used for construction activities and contain drainage structures and "tie-backs," buried supports that will hold the bulkhead in place.

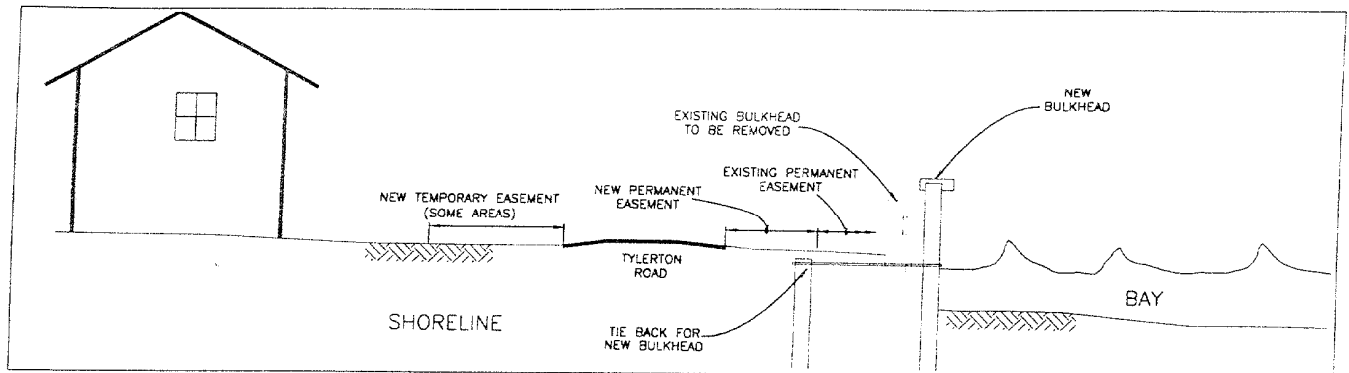
Survey Work

A survey crew may visit Tylerton for several days to verify property and easement locations. In general, the permanent easement line will be between the seaward (western) edge of the road and the shoreline. The survey crew will need to walk onto private property, however, they will make every effort not to disturb anything.



Local Resources List for Tylerton Project

The Corps is organizing a list of island residents who may be able to provide resources such as labor, boats, food, and lodging for the Tylerton project. The list includes the names of Tylerton residents who met with study team members in October as well as names mailed in after the last newsletter. Responses have been received from all three Smith Island towns as well as from part-time island residents. Anyone who may be interested in working on the project, renting rooms, hiring out their boats, or providing other services is welcome to call or send a card to Carol Anderson-Austra at 410-962-2910 or toll free at 1-800-295-1610.



Other Actions

- Members of the study team plan to visit Tylerton on the afternoon of March 31 to walk along the project alignment with anyone interested, to discuss various issues about the project, and answer questions. We will also meet with residents at the church at 7:00 in the evening.
- A signing ceremony is being planned to celebrate the Tylerton project.
- Team members from the DNR are organizing a small wetland restoration project for Ewell. Construction will begin this summer.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
CENAB-PL (Smith Island)
P.O.Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection, Maryland

Team Meeting

28 March 2000

Attendees:

Cornelia Pasche Wikar	MdDNR	Oktay Ertugrul	MDE
Jordan Loran	MdDNR	Robert Pudmericky	MDE
John Gill	USFWS	John Morton	USFWS – Blackwater
Daria Blumenauer	PPMD	C.J. Winand	Design Mgt
Larry Mathena	Civil Design	Dave Capka	Geotech
Oliver Leimbach	Cost Engr	Greg Bass	H&H
Renee Otto	DA Intern	Carol Anderson-Austra	Planning
Mark Mendelsohn	Planning	Helen Bunche	Real Estate
Steve Kopecky	Planning	Denny Klosterman	Economics
Dan Bierly	Planning		

1. The meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. in Room 6500 of the Baltimore District Office. The purpose of the meeting was to present project alternatives considered to date by the Corps study team, identified benefits of the projects, and roughly estimated costs in order to guide and focus the remaining study efforts leading to completion of the draft feasibility report. This meeting will be followed by the P-7 milestone meeting with the Corps division headquarters. The goal of the meeting was to determine for each project area the preferred alternative based on the professional judgment of the team. See the attached agenda.
2. After opening remarks, and introductions by the attendees, Dan Bierly briefly explained the near-term steps in the study process. These include meeting with Mark Colosimo, the District policy advisor for environmental projects, finalizing the EPW methodology for valuing habitat, and preparing for the P-7 meeting with North Atlantic Division (NAD). Next Daria Blumenauer briefly went over the schedule and funding situation for the study. Due to the work performed on the Tylerton project, the study is somewhat behind on expenditures, but with the renewed focus on the study, there should not be a problem catching up with the schedule. As for milestones, the final report is due in March 2001. That is, the Division Engineer's notice, not the actual completion of the final report itself including incorporating comments from the public review, which will occur earlier. Prior to that the District will hold a Alternative Formulation Briefing with Headquarters USACE (Washington), then the draft report will go out for public review in late summer, and finally the final report document will be prepared and forwarded to HQ in early 2001. With that in mind, Daria said that the designs should be completed by the end of May.

Economics, NEPA, real estate, and the other disciplines will need to work off of this date to wrap up their analyses.

3. The Smith Island project was been broken into 6 parts. The first is the Tylerton project, which has been broken off into Section 510 and is scheduled for construction in September. The next part considered is the Rhodes Point – Sheep Pen Gut area. This area is experiencing two problems. First, the Federal channel in the area shoals in very short order after dredging and is useable only during high tide by the watermen. Second, the mouth of the Gut is highly erosive, and allows ever increasing wave energy to affect Rhodes Point. Greg Bass reported that the contractor is still working on this, but he has some preliminary information and will be able to make some conclusions soon. The idea of realigning the channel so that it takes a more direct route to deep water was well received by the group. Of more contention is the possibility of moving the channel south so that it intersects Hog Neck below the geotextile tubes. This is contentious due to the SAV beds in the area and the possibility of having to cut marsh if the gut is not large enough. It was recommended that local sentiment be assessed before plugging on with this idea. Denny Klosterman discussed his work on the benefits side of the equation. He said that the watermen are experiencing approximately \$213,000 per year in increased costs. If our project can save 80% of this, then we could “afford” a project of approximately \$2.5 million. If the project saves 60%, then we can “afford” a project of about \$1.9 million. This needs to be kept in mind as we contemplate alternatives. During the P-7 meeting, the team will recommend that this project be broken off into a Section 107 effort.
4. The remainder of the meeting revolved around the Martin Wildlife Refuge and the proposed improvements there. The first to be considered was the western shoreline. That area is defined as going from the northern jetty northward to Fog Point. The projects considered include protection of this shoreline to a point that corresponds with the northernmost reach of Big Thorofare, and then the rest of the shoreline along the refuge up to Fog Point. Consideration was given to breakwaters along the reaches, a solid stone sill placed 30 feet off-shore with no backfill, and a sill placed 30 or 100 feet off-shore with backfill to create marsh. The borrow source for any backfill would likely be the off-shore site near the western coast of the refuge due to the high expense of using other areas. High transportation costs or high cost of double or triple handling were cited as reasons for the cost. The stone sill options are quite a bit more expensive than the breakwater alternatives, but it was thought that perhaps the design was too conservative, and the structure too massive. Further, a stone sill may not allow enough flushing in the area, and would certainly preclude some wildlife from being able to use the crated marsh. Also of concern is whether or not breakwaters would be affective at ceasing erosion much less trapping sediment. This area is considered of extreme importance, yet no one alternative seems to suit the problems. For that reason, the group decided that Engineering Division, with the help of the rest of the team, should design a project that mixes the various project alternatives to come up with a solution that has some of the benefits of each option while minimizing the negative aspects. The team generally agreed that any

combination of the methods discussed would be satisfactory to the group. The most important thing is to ensure the long-term stability of the landmass. The group also agreed that the protection should extend to Fog Point.

5. At Fog Point, the alternative plans included structures, either segmented breakwaters or a solid sill, that would extend from the west and/or eastern shoreline potentially with some material placement behind the structure to create wetlands. Any structure placed to the east will be more expensive due to water depths. For this reason it was recommended that breakwaters be used to the east. Jordan Loran wondered if any structure should be placed to the east jutting into the water. He wondered if we may be better served by protecting the point of land on the east side of the cove using a revetment. It was agreed that this should be analyzed as a beneficial yet inexpensive option that could also benefit Back Cove. On the western side, the team is leaning toward a solid structure with backfill behind it to create marsh, as long as the price is not too steep.
6. Along with the western shoreline area, Back Cove is considered the most important area for protection. The cove is highly functioning but is in severe danger. The "upper peninsula" that protects the area has been breached in many areas and its effectiveness as a barrier is being compromised. John Gill said that whatever we have to do to save this landmass should be pursued, and the one selected should be the least cost. For this reason, the Corps will consider a revetment-like structure right against the shoreline that would have the greatest certainty of providing protection at the lowest cost. If we can extend the protection out into the water with marsh creation behind it, that would be nice, but protection of the peninsula is essential. To the southern end of the Cove, the team agreed that the landmass between Back Cove and Terrapin Sand Cove should be protected, but due to the cost, breakwaters may be the best way to do it.
7. At Terrapin Sand Cove there is a well-established SAV bed that is being threatened by sand bar migration that is "pinching" the habitat as the bar moves toward the mainland. The alternative that would place a structure along the sand bar from the mainland to the remnant island to keep the bar from migrating further was recommended as a good project. It would be nice to extend the protection beyond the remnant island, but this is unlikely due to the cost.
8. Finally, Dan Bierly tried to focus the group toward providing an assessment of which projects are the most important to the team. That is, which projects, based on professional judgment, appear to offer the most cost-effective restoration opportunities. It was unanimous that the western shoreline and the upper peninsula of Back Cove should have top priority among the environmental restoration projects. As for the others, opinion was mixed. John Gill believes that the sand bar at Terrapin Cove is important. Jordan Loran and Dan Bierly felt that the eastern point at Fog Point Cove has merit. As for the other projects, the analysis will have to be conducted to direct the team. Also, the USFWS representatives will contact Mike

Harrison at Martin Wildlife Refuge to get his opinion on how the others should be ranked. As mentioned before, this is for guidance only. All alternatives will go through a rigorous analysis of evaluation that weighs habitat quantity and quality versus constructability, price, and other competing factors.

9. In the near future, team members will meet with Mark Colosimo to check our analysis methodology. Internal meetings will be held to direct the detailed designs that Engineering will work on. Janet Norman of USFWS will be contacted so that the EPW work can be concluded. The P-7 meeting with NAD will be held, which includes completing read-ahead material by next week. Finally, in the May timeframe, the team will need to report back to the locals on the likely recommendation of the report, hopefully to include a determination of the direction of the Rhodes Point project.
10. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 pm.

Dan Bierly
Study Manager



Signing Ceremony

Tylerton Shoreline Protection Project

Project sponsored & supported by:

US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Maryland Department of the Environment

Somerset County

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

The many wonderful people of Smith Island

April 24, 2000

2:00 pm

Today's ceremony celebrates the signing of the Project Cooperation Agreement that will move a shoreline protection project at Tylerton, Smith Island towards reality. Representatives of the Secretary of the Army and the Maryland State Department of Natural Resources will sign the agreement.

This project is one part of a larger effort to study ways to restore and protect Smith Island. The island is Maryland's last inhabited Chesapeake Bay island. It is located 12 miles west of Crisfield, Maryland, 95 miles south of Baltimore and straddles the Maryland-Virginia state line. The island is populated by a unique culture of watermen descended from the original settlers of 350 years ago.

The shoreline protection project will be designed to prevent erosion along the island's western and southern shorelines. The project will also shield certain island wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation in the cove on the southern end of the island from damage.

Design and construction costs will be cost shared at 75 percent from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and 25 percent from the State of Maryland. The estimated cost for the project is \$2 million.

The project will be accomplished by a design-build contract, the first cost-shared, design-build civil works project for the Corps. Corps officials anticipate this method will pave the way for savings in both costs and time. They expect to award the contract in May 2000. Construction is projected to start in late summer, and estimated completion is June 2001.

The Smith Island shoreline protection project was authorized under Section 510 of Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The act authorized the establishment of a pilot program to provide environmental assistance to non-federal interests in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The pilot program was to include at least one project in each of the states of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Welcome

Colonel Bruce A. Berwick
District Engineer and Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Baltimore District

Remarks

Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator, Maryland

Joseph W. Westphal
Assistant Secretary of the Army,
Civil Works

Sarah Taylor-Rogers
Secretary, Natural Resources
Department
State of Maryland

The Reverend Ashley Maxwell
Union United Methodist Church
Tylerton, Smith Island

Signing

Dr. Westphal and Dr. Taylor-Rogers

Closing

Colonel Berwick

Reception

Tylerton Church - Hosted by the
Tylerton Community Center and
United Methodist Women's
Association



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District



Smith Island

Environmental Restoration and Protection Study

July 2000

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 4

What's Happening - Smith Island Feasibility Study

The study team is making progress on the Smith Island Feasibility Study and the Tylerton Shoreline Protection project. The feasibility study covers improvements to Sheep Pen Gut, the northwest shoreline of Smith Island, and the coves along the northern shoreline of the Martin Refuge. Team members working on the feasibility study are having discussions with engineering experts, other agencies, and the folks who will have to make final decisions about the projects. Some of the questions being resolved are related to the costs of various alternative plans and getting the best value.

Tylerton Project

Everyone must know that a wonderful signing ceremony was held on April 24 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation House on Tylerton. Those signing an agreement to share the costs of the Tylerton project included Senator Paul Sarbanes, Assistant Secretary of the Army Joseph Westphal, and DNR Secretary Sarah Taylor-Rogers. The Reverend Ashley Maxwell and Baltimore District Engineer Bruce Berwick also signed as witnesses. Blustery breezes calmed and the sun was shining as Tylerton residents and visitors gathered to hear messages of support from speakers who clearly appreciate the island. Following the ceremony, the United Methodist Women's Association and the Tylerton Community Center hosted a beautiful lunch in the church basement.

During the last few months contractors and team members have visited Tylerton. Some of the tasks being accomplished include determining what real estate needs to be acquired, how to move or work around the power lines that run close to the shore, and how to prepare (clean up) the bulkhead area for the new construction.

Wastewater and Trash Management

In addition to the feasibility study and the Tylerton project, a Corps contractor is developing plans for new wastewater treatment facilities on the island. The contractor has visited existing facilities at Ewell/Rhodes Point and Tylerton and is planning two new systems designed for island conditions. Features of the new facilities include wetland ponds for secondary treatment of wastewater and salt resistant fiberglass tanks at Tylerton.

The Maryland Rural Community Assistance Project is working on a proposal for a solid waste management plan for Smith Island. Community Development Specialist Joyce DeLaurentis visited the incinerator at North End and is eager to work with island residents in developing a comprehensive plan for the entire island. The plan may incorporate a number of solid waste management techniques, from recycling and re-use to composting, burning, and hauling.

Martin Wildlife Refuge Shore Protection and Coves

A combination of a low stone sill and a bulkhead is being looked at for erosion protection along the western shore of the refuge and the coves. The project would provide extra protection in the most threatened areas and still allow bird and fish access to the marsh. Concept designs and cost analysis to determine the best protection for the money should be completed in the next few months.



Community Meeting - 6:30 PM, Tuesday, August 15, 2000 – Rhodes Point Community Center

Rhodes Point

Alternative plans for the construction of jetties to protect Sheep Pen Gut are still in development. The study team is analyzing information from ocean engineering specialists, cost engineers, and local watermen, among others. The goal is to get the most protection with the funds available.

DNR Wetland Restoration

Work on the wetland restoration project along Shell Road in Ewell will start this August. After the project area is surveyed, the project details will be designed and dredged material will be placed at the site. The dredged material will come from maintenance dredging scheduled for Big Thoroughfare in 2001. When the site is ready for planting, DNR project managers hope that interested island residents will participate and get a hands-on introduction to wetland restoration.

Community Meeting

Study team members will meet with island residents at the Rhodes Point Community Center on Tuesday evening, August 15. Several contractors working on the Tylerton shore protection project, replacement of the wastewater treatment plants, and a comprehensive solid waste management plan for the island, will also be there. The study team will present information on the Corps' feasibility and Tylerton studies and ask for ideas and comments about the construction of jetties at Rhodes Point.

Tylerton Visit and Clean Up

On Wednesday, August 16, several team members will meet at Tylerton with County representatives and members of the community trash committee to identify and tag any waste materials that might be in the way of construction of the new bulkhead.

**Other Actions**

We always welcome your calls and questions. The Smith Island projects are complex and we hope you'll write or call if you have concerns. Since we're not on the island, we need for you to let us know if there are issues you want to discuss. We're all trying to find solutions - help us do a good job for you.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
CENAB-PL (Smith Island)
P.O.Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Study

Community Meeting

Rhodes Point Community Center, August 15, 2000

Welcome! The purpose of tonight's meeting is to provide information on projects the Corps is involved with on Smith Island. The study team will also introduce several new participants who are working on the Tylerton shore protection project, improvements to the wastewater treatment plants, and on a solid waste management plan. Thank you for joining us this evening.

This meeting is one of a series of meetings that began several years ago and will continue until the projects are complete. Many of you have participated in earlier meetings and know that the process of getting projects constructed is fairly complex. Of the four projects in the 1998 reconnaissance study, the one at Tylerton is ready to begin construction; a second, at Rhodes Point, is in the planning stages; and the remaining two projects are expected to be constructed in the Refuge within the next several years.

As with our other meetings, we are looking for your ideas, concerns, and suggestions about any and all information presented. If you prefer you can write your thoughts on index cards and hand them to one of the study team members or send in one of the comment cards on the sign-in table, or just call or write a note.

Comments may be made at any time during the planning process and all will be incorporated into the project plans and addressed in the feasibility report. You are invited to submit comments at this meeting or at any time by calling Dan Bierly at 410-962-6139 or 1-800-295-1610, or by speaking with any of the team members, by sending fax messages to 410-962-4698, or by regular or electronic mail at the following addresses:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CENAB-PL-PC (Smith Island)
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Internet address: daniel.m.bierly@usace.army.mil

MEETING AGENDA

6:30	Welcome and Introductions – Carol Anderson-Austra
6:40	Status of Projects – Daria Van Liew
6:50	Tylerton Project and Schedule – Larry Mathena and Daria
7:00	Martin Refuge Alternatives – Steve Kopecky Northwest Shore Protection and Cove Restoration
7:10	Rhodes Point Alternatives – Larry and Daria
7:30	Wastewater Treatment Plants – Bruce Laswell and CJ Winand
7:40	Solid Waste Management Plan – Joyce DeLaurentis
7:50	Questions/Discussion – Daria and Team Members
8:00	Summary and next actions – Daria
8:05	Thanks for coming – Carol

**Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Study
Public Information Meeting**

Rhodes Point Community Center, July 14, 1999

Welcome to this Public Information Meeting for the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study. Thank you for joining us this evening. Many of you participated in other meetings like this when we began working together on the reconnaissance study. During those first meetings you told us your concerns and we explained the Corps' planning process, which you know is fairly complex. The reconnaissance study was completed in 1998 and identified four projects that the Corps could construct. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to provide an update on the progress of all four of the proposed project components and especially to provide information about the Tylerton project. We hope that we will provide you with interesting information this evening, and that you will share your ideas, concerns, and suggestions. If you prefer you can write your thoughts on index cards and hand them to one of the study team members or send in one of the comment cards that are on the sign-in table.

Comments may be made at any time during the planning process and all will be incorporated into the planning process and addressed in the feasibility report. You are invited to submit comments at this meeting or at any time by calling Dan Bierly at 410-962-6139 or 1-800-295-1610, or by speaking with any of the team members, by sending fax messages to 410-962-4698, or by post or electronic mail at the following addresses:

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Smith Island Project
Attn: CENAB-PL-PC
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Internet address: daniel.m.bierly@usace.army.mil

MEETING AGENDA

6:00	Welcome and introductions – Dan Bierly
6:10	Project schedule – Daria Blumenauer
6:20	Project overview, activities, and status - Dan Bierly and Evamaria Koch
6:50	Tylerton options and concepts: offshore sill, revetment, bulkhead – Dan Bierly
7:10	Questions/Discussion – Bierly and team members
7:45	Summary and next actions
8:00	Thanks for coming

Smith Island Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study Informal Public Information Meeting

Rhodes Point Community Center, July 1, 1998

Welcome to this informal public information meeting for the Smith Island Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce new project partners, provide a brief update on the status of the project, and then to answer your questions and hear what is on your minds.

Several new team members are here today. Kathy Ellett, Cornelia Pasche, and Gwynne Schultz are from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Virginia Kearny, Robert Pudmericky, Walid Saffouri, and Oktay Ertugrul are from the Maryland Department of the Environment; and new to the Corps team is Stacey Underwood.

You are invited to give us your ideas today or at any time - you can write your questions and comments and give them to us or you can fill out and mail a comment card to the address below. You are also welcome to call us (toll free) in Baltimore, at 1-800-295-1610. Dan Bierly can be reached at 410-962-6139, fax messages can be sent to 410-962-4698, and e-mail can be sent to daniel.m.bierly@usace.army.mil.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Smith Island Project
Attn.: CENAB-PL-PD
PO Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

MEETING AGENDA

- 1:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 1:35 Where we are:
 - Jetty repair
 - Rhodes Point
 - Tylerton
 - Refuge coves
 - NW side breakwaters
- 1:50 Other actions – geotubes, wood offer, town improvements
- 2:00 Questions and discussion
- 3:00 Wrap-up

Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Study

Public Information Meeting

Rhodes Point Community Center, February 22, 1997

Welcome to the second public information meeting for the Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Study. The purpose of this meeting is to present for discussion some alternative solutions for the critical erosion and habitat loss problems on the island. In addition, we'll provide a brief report on the planned placement of new geotubes at Hogs Neck and on the needed repairs to the Thorofare Channel jetties. After the presentation, there will be time for questions and discussion. If you prefer, you can fill out a comment card or write questions/comments on an index card and give it to one of the study team or mail it to us.

This meeting is one of a series of meetings and discussions that have been held and that will continue to take place throughout the study. Our goal for this afternoon is to add your input to the findings of engineers, scientists, and planners as we begin to evaluate alternative solutions being developed for Rhodes Point, Tylerton, the NW side of the island, and the Refuge coves.

Comments made at any time during the planning process will be addressed in the study and incorporated into the report. You are invited to submit comments at this meeting or at any time by calling Dan Bierly at (410)962-6139, by speaking with any of the team members, by sending fax messages to (410)962-4698, or by post or electronic mail at the following addresses:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Smith Island Project
Attn: CENAB-PL-P
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Internet address: daniel.m.bierly@ccmail.nab.usace.army.mil

MEETING AGENDA

1:30	Welcome and Introductions
1:45	Review - Problem identification, geotube placement, jetty repair
2:00	Alternative solutions Rhodes Point, Tylerton, NW side of island, Refuge coves
2:15	Questions and discussion
3:00	Wrap-up

Smith Island Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Study Public Information Meeting

Rhodes Point Community Center, August 27, 1996

Welcome to the first Public Information Meeting for the Smith Island, Maryland Virginia, Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Study. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce some of the study team members and island residents; to provide information on the project and the Corps' planning process; and to identify ideas, issues, and concerns that you may have. We hope that we will provide you with interesting information this evening, and that you will talk to the study team members and give us your views. If you prefer you can write your ideas on index cards and hand them to one of the study team members. There are also comment cards that you can mail to us later.

This meeting is only one of a series of meetings that will be held throughout the study. In the past few weeks we have held informal meetings with small groups of residents in Ewell, Tylerton, and Rhodes Point. This meeting will be similar to the earlier meetings, but a bit more structured. Our goal this evening is to produce several lists of the ideas you have about the positive qualities of the island, the problems that you see, improvements that could be made to make the island better or to create the "ideal" Smith Island, and concerns you have about this study.

We anticipate that future meetings will include additional public information meetings and discussion meetings with smaller groups that may have a specific area of interest, such as the commercial fishing community, natural resource management agencies, and anyone else who wants to talk to us. These meetings are one step in the public involvement process that is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Federal plans and projects. The purposes of NEPA include encouraging "productive and enjoyable harmony" between human activities and the environment, and providing information about a project to the public and to decision-makers.

Comments made at any time during the planning process will be addressed in the study and incorporated into the report. You are invited to submit comments at this meeting or at any time by calling Dan Bierly at (410) 962-6139, by speaking with any of the team members, by sending fax messages to (410) 962-4698, or by post or electronic mail at the following addresses:

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Attn: CENAB-PL-PC
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Internet address: daniel.m.bierly@ccmail.nab.usace.army.mil

MEETING AGENDA

6:30 - 6:45	Welcome; introductions
6:45 - 7:00	Presentation - Dan Bierly
7:00 - 7:45	Identify issues of importance to the community
7:45 - 8:15	Questions/Discussion



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District



MDE

Smith Island

Environmental Restoration and Protection Study

November 2000

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 5

Tylerton Project – Questions and Answers

What is the status of the project? The project is about 4 to 6 weeks behind the schedule we set in August. An important issue was resolved at the first design review meeting, held on October 12, when the project team made a decision to bring sand from the mainland to use as fill behind the new bulkhead instead of using material on the island. Using fill material from the area near the wastewater treatment plant, which has a high clay content, would have resulted in a number of engineering and construction problems. The extra weight of clay and its capacity to hold water would have required modifications to the bulkhead design that would add substantial costs to the project.

Why isn't the contractor working on cleaning up the Tylerton shoreline area? The clean-up by the contractor that was scheduled to begin on October 16 has been delayed for several reasons. The main reason is that construction can't start until the design is complete and has been approved by the project team. In addition, it is taking longer to receive the sedimentation and erosion permit than we had hoped and real estate easements still need to be obtained.

What is the status of the sedimentation and erosion permit application? The application was reviewed by MDE and returned to the Corps for several modifications. It has now been re-submitted and a permit is expected by late this month.

Is the funding for the Tylerton bulkhead and stone shore protection still available? Construction funds for the bulkhead were received in 1998 and 1999. Those funds are "in the bank." Funds for the stone protection at the south end of the island were included in the Federal spending bill signed by the President in October 2000.

What is the project team working on now? The project team will hold the second design review meeting at Tylerton on November 17. We anticipate that the plans will be about 90% complete. Island residents are welcome to attend the day-time meeting and comment or ask questions (although some of the discussion may be pretty engineer-y). Everyone is also invited to meet with team members to discuss the plans at the church in the evening.

When will there be machinery on the island? Following the meeting on the 17th, the plans should be complete enough for the project team to approve them. If the sediment and erosion control permit is received and the real estate easements have been obtained, the contractor should be on the island in early December.

How will the project delays affect the scheduled "SAV windows" allowing construction around SAV beds? Construction windows for working near seagrass beds were scheduled for October through April. The construction windows may have to be re-negotiated with the environmental resources agencies.

How long will construction take? The current schedule shows a 12-month long design and construction schedule (to September 2001) for the bulkhead and the stone erosion protection. If the weather cooperates and the contractor is able to use two crews and work on both parts of the project at the same time, the construction time should be shortened.



How many local workers and what other island resources will the contractors need? An estimate is that the contractor may need to hire one to three local workers. The decision will be made by the contractor, who may choose to bring a complete crew rather than hiring local workers. The Corps has furnished the lists of possible providers of labor, boats, lodging, and food to the contractors. We will assist the contractors in coordinating with local providers of these services, however, the Corps will have no control over hiring.

Other Actions

- Rhodes Point – Review of the draft feasibility report will begin this month. The recommended plan includes construction of twin jetties, a re-aligned channel, and stone shoreline protection to the south of Sheep Pen Gut.
- Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study - The draft report, which includes shoreline protection for the northwest shoreline above Thorofare Channel and restoration of the coves in the Martin Refuge, will be submitted for higher level Corps review at the end of November.
- DNR Wetland Construction at Ewell – In order to manage costs, the wetland will be constructed when dredged material is available during one of the regular maintenance dredging cycles in Thorofare Channel.
- Design Review Meeting at Tylerton – The project team will meet on November 17th in the Tylerton Church to review the 90% complete project plans. After this review and following the receipt of comments from the community on the evening of the 17th, final modifications will be made and the plans will be complete.

If you have questions or comments, you are welcome to call to Carol Anderson-Austra at 410-962-2910 or toll free at 1-800-295-1610.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
CENAB-PL (Smith Island)
P.O.Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715



Project Information Meeting at the Tylerton Church at 6:00PM on Friday, November 17.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

March 15, 2001

Public Notice

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SMITH ISLAND RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROJECT, MARYLAND

SUMMARY: The Baltimore District is announcing that it has prepared a draft integrated feasibility report and environmental assessment for the Smith Island Restoration and Protection Project. The draft report is available for public review and comment for 30 days from the date of this notice. The Corps is recommending a series of breakwaters designed to protect the island from erosion and restore submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) within the interior of the island. A map of the recommended plan is attached to this notice. The project is described in detail in the feasibility report. The report includes an analysis of the estimated project costs and anticipated benefits, as well as any potential environmental impacts. Based on this report, adverse environmental impacts are not expected to be significant, and the project is expected to have considerable beneficial impact to the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay.

The purpose of this document is to identify and study mechanisms to restore and protect the environmental and cultural resources of Smith Island. The draft findings are as follows:


1. A shoreline stabilization project at Tylerton and a navigational improvement project at Rhodes Point are being addressed under separate authorities and in separate reports.
2. Environmental restoration opportunities were analyzed throughout Martin Wildlife Refuge, with benefits expected in Big Thorofare, Back Cove, and Fog Point Cove.
3. The project is expected to restore over 20 acres of salt marsh and 1400 acres of SAV habitat while protecting over 200 acres of salt marsh and 500 acres of SAV over the 50-year project life.
4. The recommended plan is to construct breakwaters along the western shoreline of Martin Wildlife Refuge, along both shorelines of Fog Point Cove, and along the northwest and southeast shoreline of Back Cove.
5. The Corps will explore the use of borrow material for wetland creation behind the breakwaters. The source of the material will be determined during the next phase of the project study, pre-construction engineering and design (PED). The scope of the search will be developed in PED.

The public is encouraged to submit its comments during this 30-day public notice period beginning on the date of this notice. Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting the District as described below or downloading from the Baltimore District website at www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/civil.htm. *Questions, comments, or requests for copies of the report should be directed to Mr. Daniel Bierly, at the Corps of Engineers. Baltimore District (ATTN: CENAB-PL-P), P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715. Contact him by phone at (410) 962-6139 or by e-mail at daniel.m.bierly@usace.army.mil, or by facsimile at (410) 962-4698.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Corps is working with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Somerset County, and the Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and implement this project.

The Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will apply for water quality certification and statement of coastal zone consistency from the State of Maryland. Any comments relating to water quality concerns should also be forwarded to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Standards and Certification, 2500 Broening Hwy, Baltimore, MD 21224, within 30 days of the date of this notice.

Encl

for 
ROBERT W. LINDNER
Chief, Planning Division
Baltimore District

Smith Island Recommended Plan

Fog Point Cove:

Cove extension from the western shoreline and erosion protection along the eastern edge.

Back Cove:

Northwest and southeast breakwaters, 30 ft. off-shore, combined with backfill and wetland creation

Western Shoreline:

9,840 linear feet of off-shore breakwaters, located 30 ft. off-shore.

Chesapeake Bay

Rhodes Point Navigation Improvement: To be Implemented under Section 107

Rhodes Point

Hog Neck

Shanks Creek

Tylerton

Tyler Creek

Tylerton Shoreline Protection Project: To be Implemented Under Section 510

Martin

National

Wildlife

Refuge

Big

Thorofare

Ewell

Back Cove

Terrapin Sand Cove

Barnes Cove

Twitch Cove

Tangier Sound

Maryland

Virginia



0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

■ Federal Channel
— Roads



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

News Release

Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203
(410) 962-2809
Fax: (410) 962-3660

Release No. 01-08
Contact: Mary Beth Thompson
For Release: March 15, 2001

Corps releases Smith Island environmental study for public comment

Baltimore – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, released for public review today a feasibility report on projects that could help restore and create submerged aquatic vegetation and salt marsh habitat at Smith Island. The report contains conclusions and recommendations from a 2 ½-year study called the Smith Island, Md., Environmental Restoration and Protection Study. The 30-day public review and comment period extends through April 15, 2001.

The study examines numerous Smith Island water resources problems with erosion as a common factor. The report recommends restoration of Back Cove and Fog Point Cove using stone breakwaters and backfill. It also proposes using breakwaters and backfill to protect the western shoreline of the Martin Wildlife Refuge from the northern jetty near Ewell to Fog Point. All three projects will protect or create marsh habitat that will promote SAV growth.

Smith Island is the last continuously inhabited remote island in the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay. It is home to a unique culture of watermen, descendants of the original inhabitants who settled there 350 years ago. The swiftly eroding shorelines of the island endanger the populated areas, cause shoaling in the navigation channels, decrease protection from wave energy and degrade SAV beds. The island is located 12 miles west of Crisfield, Md., and 95 miles south of Baltimore.

The study originally included erosion protection at Tylerton and navigation at Rhodes Point, also. During its course, these two elements were removed from this study and are being carried forward separately.

The report is available from the Baltimore District, at certain local libraries, and on the District website at <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/civil.htm>. Comments or requests should be submitted in writing to the attention of Daniel M. Bierly, Planning Division, and mailed to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Md. 21203-1715; or sent by fax to 410-962-4698; or e-mailed to daniel.m.bierly@usace.army.mil

All comments received by the Corps will be considered and addressed in the final report, scheduled to be issued in May 2001.

Media List

<i>Baltimore Sun</i> , 410-752-6049	SD 012
<i>The Daily Banner</i> , Cambridge, 410-228-6547	SD 126
<i>The Daily Times</i> , Salisbury, 410-749-7290	SD 083
<i>The Capital</i> , Annapolis, 410-280-5953	SD 017
AP Eastern Shore, 410-263-0233	SD 008
<i>Corps Report</i> , 301-587-1081	SD 026
<i>The Dorchester Star</i> , Cambridge, 410-228-0685	
<i>Salisbury News & Advertiser</i> , 410-749-5073	
<i>Crisfield Times</i> , Crisfield, 410-968-1197	
<i>Worcester County Messenger</i> , Pocomoke City, 410-957-4314	
<i>Somerset Herald</i> , Princess Anne, 410-651-3785	
<i>Washington Post</i> , Annapolis Bureau, 410-267-6972	

Environmental Groups

Sierra Club, 410-792-2938

Clean Water Action, 410-235-8816

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 410-280-3513

Save Our Streams, 410-766-3932

Others

HQUSACE PAO	SD 001
NAD PAO	SD 002



Maryland Department of Planning

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor

Harriet Tregoning
Secretary

Ronald N. Young
Deputy Secretary

March 21, 2001

Mr. Daniel Bierly
Project Manager
ATTN: CENAB-PL
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW PROCESS

Reply Due Date:	April 18, 2001
State Application Identifier:	MD20010319-0230
Project Description:	Draft Integrated Feasibility Report, E. A. & draft FONSI for Smith Island Restoration & Protection Project: halt & reverse loss of submerged aquatic vegetation: protect, restore wetlands; increase animal habitat; stabilize shoreline (see MD19991220-1181)
Project Location:	Somerset County
State Clearinghouse Contact:	Bob Rosenbush

Dear Mr. Bierly:

This letter acknowledges receipt of the referenced project. We have initiated the Maryland Intergovernmental Review and Coordination Process (MIRC) as of the date of this letter. You can expect to receive review comments and recommendations on or before the reply date indicated. Please place the State Application Identifier Number on all documents and correspondence regarding this project.

This project has been sent to the following agencies or jurisdictions for comment: The Maryland Departments of Budget and Management, the Environment, Housing and Community Development including the Maryland Historical Trust, Natural Resources and Transportation; Somerset County; and the Maryland Department of Planning.

Your participation in the MIRC process helps to ensure that this project will be consistent with the plans, programs, and objectives of State agencies and local governments. Issues resolved through this process enhance the opportunities for project funding and minimize delays during project implementation.

If you need assistance or have questions concerning this review, please call 410-767-4490 and ask for the staff person noted above. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Linda C. Janey, J.D.
Director, Clearinghouse & Plan Review Unit

LCJ:BR:mds



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
2500 Broening Highway • Baltimore Maryland 21224
(410) 631-4120

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Jane T. Nishida
Secretary

April 17, 2001

Mr. Robert W. Lindner, Chief
Planning Division
Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore MD 21203-1715

RE: MDE Identifier Number: ES20010322-0018
Project: Smith Island

Dear Mr. Lindner:

Thank you for providing the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) with the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project. Copies of the documents were circulated throughout MDE for review, and it has been determined that this project is consistent with MDE's plans, programs and objectives.

Again, thank you for giving MDE the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me at (410) 631-4120.

Sincerely,

Joane D. Mueller
MDE Clearinghouse Coordinator
Technical and Regulatory Services Administration

cc: Jane Nishida, Secretary



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401



April 30, 2001

Colonel Charles J. Fiala, Jr., P.E.
District Engineer
Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Attn: Robert W. Linder
Chief, Planning Division

Re: Smith Island, MD Environmental
Restoration and Protection - Draft
Feasibility Report and
Environmental Assessment

Dear Colonel Fiala:

This letter constitutes the report of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Department of the Interior on the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment for Smith Island, Somerset County, Maryland. This report is submitted in accordance with Section 2(b) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The Service previously submitted a Planning Aid Report dated March 1997.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Baltimore District proposes to construct a system of segmented breakwaters along the western and northern flanks of Martin National Wildlife Refuge. The District's recommended plan is discussed as three sub-projects: the western shoreline, Fog Point Cove, and Back Cove. The general intent of these projects is to slow erosion of the island's western shore while creating conditions favorable to SAV recovery within the two above coves and within Big Thorofare. Big Thorofare is an area of open water inside Smith Island's outer perimeter that separates Martin National Wildlife Refuge from the remainder of the island to the south. A Smith Island locator map showing the recommended plan is on page three of the 15 March, 2001 Public Notice. Approximately 9,420 feet of segmented rock breakwaters would be constructed along the western

shoreline. These breakwaters would be installed 30-100 feet offshore, approximately 250 feet in length, and spaced 150 feet apart. Breakwater length and spacing would be variable to effectively address shoreline breaching, with longer, more continuous structures used at locations of more severe breaching/erosion. Several areas between the breakwaters and existing shoreline would be backfilled. The placement of this material would accelerate stabilization of the eroding shoreline and would be planted with wetland vegetation. The recommended plan for Fog Point Cove includes a continuous 600-foot stone sill on the western peninsula with a 1,200-foot segmented breakwater system on the eastern shoreline. Backfill and wetland creation is also proposed for both portions of the Fog Point Cove plan. A similar plan is proposed for Back Cove where 5,950 feet of breakwaters would be placed along the northwest shore and 2,950 feet along the southeast shore. Backfill and wetland creation is also proposed for placement behind the Back Cove breakwaters.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES WITHOUT THE PROJECT

Biological resources in and around Smith Island are exceptionally rich and diverse. For this reason the northern half of Smith Island was acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and now constitutes the Martin National Wildlife Refuge. With the exception of three towns, several old dredged material disposal sites, and small dune hummocks, Smith Island is entirely estuarine emergent wetlands bisected by numerous tidal creeks. Shallow waters within and surrounding the island have historically supported some of the most productive areas for SAV in Chesapeake Bay. These wetlands and aquatic beds in turn provide habitat for developing and mature species of fish, invertebrates, waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, aquatic furbearers, diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*), etc. Adjacent open waters support commercially important populations of crabs, oysters and clams, and commercially and recreationally important populations of finfish. The Service's Planning Aid Report of March 1997 examined the fish and wildlife resources of Smith Island in detail.

Smith Island is located between Tangier Sound and Chesapeake Bay proper. In this position the western shore of the island is exposed to an open water fetch of 30 miles from the west, southwest, and northwest. Because of this exposed position erosion, exacerbated by island subsidence, has resulted in the loss of large acreages of vegetated wetlands and SAV throughout the Smith Island complex. Almost all the SAV beds at Smith Island are located within protected interior shallow waters or along the shoreline facing Tangier Sound. The western shoreline of the peninsula receded 2,000 feet between 1849 and 1968 (Maryland Geological Survey 1975).

Threatened and Endangered Species

The Service's Planning Aid Report of 1997, discussed the peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) present within the study area as endangered species. This species is no longer a Federally-listed species under the Endangered Species Act. The final Feasibility Report should reflect the current status of this species. However, peregrine falcon recovery and monitoring remains a priority for the Service and the species retains protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Except for occasional transient individuals, no Federally-listed or proposed endangered or threatened species under our jurisdiction are known to exist in the project impact area. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further Section 7 Consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 is required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

Among species under National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) jurisdiction, the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*) are known to use the Smith Island vicinity as juvenile development areas. The project is not expected to negatively impact these species, but for more information, contact NMFS at (410)226-5771.

BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

The major environmental benefits of the proposed project include wetland protection, wetland creation, SAV protection and SAV restoration. Wetland protection would be accomplished by arresting the severe rates of erosion threatening the portion of Smith Island within the project area. The western shoreline project would prevent further erosion of 135 acres of marsh, and the Back Cove project would similarly protect 80.5 acres of marsh. Backfilling and planting behind segmented breakwaters in each project area would result in 23.5 acres of wetland restoration/creation. Benefits to Smith Island's significant SAV resources can be expected due to reductions in wave energy, sedimentation, and total suspended solids. The western shoreline project will protect 239 acres of SAV within Big Thorofare by repairing tidal gut breaches that currently allow increased wave energy and sediment to reach and negatively impact the interior SAV beds. If SAV were to recover to historic levels within Big Thorofare, the western shoreline project could potentially lead to the restoration of 902 acres of SAV. The Fog Point Cove and Back Cove projects would preserve 29 and 236 acres, respectively, of SAV by fortifying and expanding cove-protecting peninsulas. The resultant areas of quiescent waters, lower in both sediment and wave energy relative to the pre-project condition should allow SAV to recolonize. If recolonization eventually approaches historic extents, the two cove projects could result in 231 acres of SAV restored.

A few of the benefits to wildlife from the implementation of the 3 sub-projects include long-term protection of wading bird rookeries located on the scarce upland habitats of Martin National Wildlife Refuge and protection of diamondback terrapin nesting sites, especially within Fog Point Cove.

The source of backfill material for wetland creation in each of the 3 project areas is proposed to be a borrow area 1,500 feet off the northwest shore of Martin National Wildlife Refuge. Approximately 68,000 cubic yards of sandy material would be removed from this area in long, three-foot deep sections to provide the necessary fill for wetland creation behind the segmented breakwaters. The benthic community in these sections would be effectively removed and fish using the immediate area would temporarily relocate. It is expected that the borrow strips would

refill with sediment within a few years and the benthic community would rapidly recolonize. Because these impacts are temporary and because the proposed borrow area avoids SAV beds and oyster bars, the Service would not object to the use of this source provided all potential sources of maintenance dredging material have been exhausted. The Service strongly encourages the continued examination of nearby dredging operations for a source of backfill material. The possibility of scheduling the project construction coincident with the availability of maintenance dredging material from another project would be the preferred approach.

Project construction would permanently replace approximately 29 acres of subaqueous bottom with stone breakwaters, stone sills, and fill material placed for wetland creation behind the stone structures.

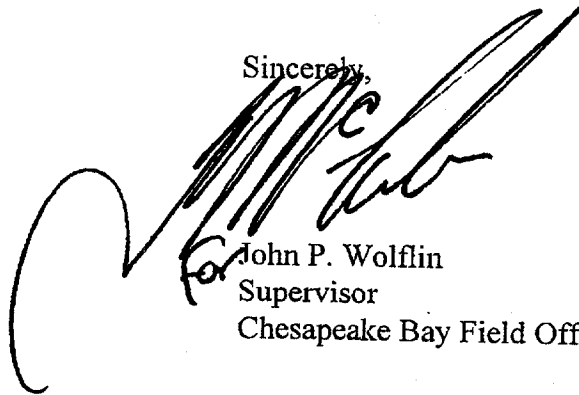
CONCLUSIONS

The environmental impacts of the Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection Project are overwhelmingly beneficial. These benefits accruing to the Smith Island system will more than offset the minor and temporary impacts from construction activities, the loss of subaqueous bottom, and impacts associated with the possible use of an offshore borrow site. Therefore, the Service concurs with Baltimore District's Recommended Plan, and its Finding of No Significant Impact.

Because this project involves Martin National Wildlife Refuge, please contact the Refuge for concurrence. Please address these inquiries to John Gill at (410) 228-2692.

We appreciate the opportunity for review and reiterate the Service's support for this important project. Any questions regarding Service recommendations should be addressed to Jason Miller of my staff at (410) 573-4522.

Sincerely,



John P. Wolflin
Supervisor
Chesapeake Bay Field Office

REFERENCES

Maryland Geological Survey. 1975. Historical Shorelines and Erosion Rates Maps.



Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Stanley K. Arthur
Deputy Secretary

May 10, 2001

Colonel Charles J. Fiala
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore MD 21203-1715

RE: Smith Island Environmental Restoration and Protection

Dear Colonei Fiala:

This letter is to indicate the support of the State of Maryland for the projects detailed in the draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for the above referenced Study. Further, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), acting as the non-Federal Sponsor, is committed to those projects, summarized below, for which you are seeking authorization for the design and construction phases. Non-Federal costs will be shared by DNR, Department of the Environment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Somerset County.

The projects are:

- Offshore breakwaters, backfill and marsh plantings along the western shoreline of Martin Wildlife Refuge from Swan Island to Fog Point Cove (SI18);
- Offshore breakwaters and sill with backfill and marsh plantings on eastern and western shores of Fog Pont Cove (FP9).
- Offshore breakwaters with backfill and marsh plantings along northwestern shoreline of Back Cove with extension into cove (BC8) and offshore breakwaters, backfill and marsh plantings along southeastern shoreline of Back Cove with extension into cove (BC13a).

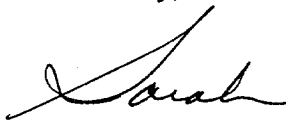
The non-Federal share will be provided to the Corps through a combination of General Obligation bonds, Waterway Improvement Funds, and funds provided by the USFWS.

Telephone: _____
DNR TTY for the Deaf: (410) 260-8835
Toll Free #: 1-877-620-8DNR

Colonel Charles J. Fiala
May 10, 2001
Page 2

We look forward to continuing to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Maryland, Somerset County and the residents of Smith Island to improve and maintain the environmental health of this sensitive and important region. I trust this information and commitment is satisfactory for your needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers, Ph.D.

STR/DGB/cpw

cc: Somerset County Commissioners
Mr. James W. Dunmyer, Department of Natural Resources
Mr. Mike Nelson, Department of Natural Resources
Mr. Robert Gaudette, Department of Natural Resources
Mr. Jordan Loran, Department of Natural Resources
Ms. Cornelia Pasche Wikar, Department of Natural Resources